


4th Edition

WORDLY WISE 3000®

SAMPLE LESSONS

Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction | Grades K–12 | RTI 

BOOK 7:
Lessons
1 & 10



BOOK 7
WORDLY WISE
3000®
Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction
Fourth Edition
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EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Lesson 1 Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

abate *abate*
v. To become weaker; to decrease.
The speaker waited until the applause had **abated**.

unabated *unabated*
adj. Showing no sign of weakening; still
Representative Millet showed **unabated** enthusiasm
for the senate seat, even though he had been twice defeated.

acknowledge *ak-nal-ij*
v. 1. To admit the existence of.
Did the teacher **acknowledge** that you had turned in your homework?
2. To express recognition or thanks for.
The new Wimbledon singles champion raised his arms in triumph and **acknowledged** the cheers of the crowd.

acknowledged *ak-nal-ij*
adj. Commonly accepted or
Bill James is an **acknowledged** expert on baseball.

agent *aj-ent*
n. 1. A person who acts or does business for another.
The author's **agent** found a company to publish his book.
2. Something that brings about a result.
A new principal can be a powerful **agent** of change.

authority *ah-thor-ah-tee*
n. 1. The right to give orders, make decisions, or enforce laws.
Only the Congress of the United States has the **authority** to declare war.
2. An expert source of information.
The researcher Jane Goodall is a world **authority** on the behavior of chimpanzees.
authorities *ah-thor-ah-tee-eez*
n. A group of people who have the **authority** to set standards for cleanliness.
The **authorities** closed the restaurant because it did not meet the standards for cleanliness.

Chat with your partner about what you do or do not like to do.

Show your partner how you look when your energy is high and when it is low.

Tell your partner about a hobby or topic you are interested in.

Lesson 10 Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

aquatic *ak-wat-ik*
adj. 1. Growing or living in or on water.
Water lilies are **aquatic** plants.
2. Done in or upon water.
Swimming is an **aquatic** sport.

assert *ah-assert*
v. To say firmly; to declare.
Charlie **asserted** that the money entrusted to him was in a safe place.
assertion *ah-assert-ee-on*
n. A firm statement or declaration.
No one challenged her **assertion** that Tuckerman's Ravine was too dangerous to hike.

assertive *ah-assert-iv*
adj. Self-assured; bold and confident.
Because of his **assertive** manner, he was able to obtain an interview for the summer job.

assert *ah-assert*
v. To say firmly; to declare.
Assert your feelings about a vegetable, such as broccoli.

avert *ah-vert*
v. 1. To turn away.
I **averted** my eyes from the scary scenes in the movie.
2. To keep from happening.
The driver **averted** an accident by hitting the brake.

avert *ah-vert*
v. To turn away.
Tell your partner what you do to **avert** being late to school.

bleak *bleek*
adj. 1. Without much hope.
The family's future looked **bleak** when both parents lost their jobs.
2. Cold and dreary; exposed to cold winds and bad weather.
Penguins seem to flourish in Antarctica's **bleak** climate.

bleak *bleek*
adj. 1. Without much hope.
The family's future looked **bleak** when both parents lost their jobs.
2. Cold and dreary; exposed to cold winds and bad weather.
Penguins seem to flourish in Antarctica's **bleak** climate.
Discuss with your partner whether the chances for snow tomorrow are **bleak** or hopeful.

blithe *blith*
adj. 1. Cheerful; carefree.
The children's **blithe** mood is contagious.
2. Not showing proper care; heedless.
The driver showed a **blithe** indifference for the safety of others on the highway.

blithely *blith-lee*
adv. In a carefree manner.
I knew she was happy when she walked **blithely** out the door.

108 Lesson 10



Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

abate
ə bāt'

v. To become weaker; to decrease.

The speaker waited until the applause had **abated** before continuing.

unabated *adj.* Showing no sign of weakening; showing no decrease.

Representative Millet showed **unabated** enthusiasm for campaigning for the senate seat, even though he had been twice defeated for that office.



.....
Show your partner how you look when your energy abates.

acknowledge
ak nāl' ij

v. 1. To admit the existence of.

Did the teacher **acknowledge** that you had turned in your paper?

2. To express recognition or thanks for.

The new Wimbledon singles champion raised her hand to **acknowledge** the cheers of the crowd.

acknowledged *adj.* Commonly accepted or recognized.

Bill James is an **acknowledged** expert on baseball.



.....
Chat with your partner about what you do or say to acknowledge a friend who walks past you.

agent
ā' jənt

n. 1. A person who acts or does business for another.

The author's **agent** found a company to publish his latest mystery story.

2. Something that brings about a result.

A new principal can be a powerful **agent** for change in a school.

authority
ə thôr' ə tē

n. 1. The right to give orders, make decisions, or take action.

Only the Congress of the United States has the **authority** to declare war.

2. An expert source of information.

The researcher Jane Goodall is a world **authority** on chimpanzees.

authorities *n.* A group of people who have the right to enforce laws.

The **authorities** closed the restaurant because it did not meet the proper standards for cleanliness.



.....
Tell your partner about a hobby or topic you are an authority on.

devastate
dev' ə stāt

v. To ruin or destroy completely.
Farmers in the Midwest fear that lack of rain will **devastate** the wheat crop.

devastating *adj.* Causing destruction.
A **devastating** hurricane destroyed hundreds of homes in southern Florida.

devastation *n.* Great destruction.
The earthquake in Japan created a scene of massive **devastation**.



.....
Discuss with your partner how rain, wind, or snow can cause devastation.

epidemic
ep ə dem' ik

n. The rapid spreading of a disease to many people at one time.
The flu **epidemic** of 1918 killed over twenty million people in the Northern Hemisphere.

adj. Spreading rapidly as a disease over a wide area.
AIDS became **epidemic** in central Africa in the 1980s.

estimate
es' tə mət

n. A number that is not exact; a careful guess.
The mechanic's **estimate** for repairing the car is \$1000.

v. (es' tə māt) To figure out roughly; to make an approximate calculation.
We **estimate** that it will take the bus driver an hour to drive us to the museum.



.....
Work with your partner to quickly estimate how many chairs there are in your classroom.

evict
ē vikt'

v. To force out of property by taking legal action.
The landlord threatened to **evict** the tenants for not paying the rent.

impartial
im pār' shəl

adj. Not favoring one side more than another; fair.
A judge should be **impartial** in the courtroom.

industrious
in dus' trē əs

adj. Hardworking; not lazy.
The more **industrious** students were rewarded at the end of the year with scholarships.

infuriate
in fyoor' ē āt

v. To make very angry.
Cruelty to animals **infuriates** me.



.....
Share with your partner something that infuriates you.

irrelevant
ir rel' ə vənt

adj. Having nothing to do with the subject.
It's **irrelevant** whether I want to go to the party because I'm too sick to go.

precise
pri sīs'

adj. Exact; specific.
Do you know the **precise** time that your class starts?

precision *n.* (pri sizh' ən) Exactness.
An eye surgeon's work requires great **precision**.



.....
Tell your partner the precise number of purple things you can see right now.

sham
sham

n. Something fake or false.
Their offer to make us rich turned out to be a **sham**.

adj. Not genuine; fake.
Although he tried to appear sorry, his **sham** apology fooled no one.

v. To pretend.
We **shammed** illness so we could stay home.

trek
trek

n. A long, slow, and difficult journey.
The hikers were exhausted after their **trek** over the mountain.

v. To travel slowly and with difficulty.
Sam **trekked** ten miles into town after his car broke down.

1A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) you make that person very angry. (c) If you infuriate someone,
(b) you act in that person's place. (d) If you evict someone,

2. (a) something that is not genuine. (c) An estimate is
(b) a decrease in size or amount. (d) A sham is

3. (a) a disease that spreads rapidly. (c) An epidemic is
(b) a number that is not exact. (d) An agent is

4. (a) that is meant to be helpful. (c) A devastating comment is one
(b) An irrelevant comment is one (d) that is off the subject.

5. (a) An agent is (c) something that cannot be explained.
(b) A trek is (d) something that produces a result.

6. (a) one who works hard. (c) An industrious person is
(b) An impartial person is (d) one who is highly paid.

7. (a) Estimates are (c) people who enforce the law.
(b) Authorities are (d) witnesses to an accident.

8. (a) is strongly denied. (c) Something that is acknowledged
(b) is generally accepted. (d) Something that is unabated

9. (a) a state of destruction. (c) Precision is
(b) Devastation is (d) a sticking or holding together.

10. (a) An authority is (c) an expert source of information.
(b) a decrease in force or power. (d) A trek is

abate

acknowledge

agent

authority

devastate

epidemic

estimate

evict

impartial

industrious

infuriate

irrelevant

precise

sham

trek

1B

Just the Right Word

Replace each phrase in bold with a single word (or form of the word) from the word list.

1. The people had no right to be there, so they were **removed by force** from the house.
2. The teacher has the **right to give orders** to send students to the principal's office.
3. Those judging the contest are expected to be **fair and not to favor either side**.
4. The parts of a jigsaw puzzle must be cut with **very great care** if they are to fit together properly.
5. In a special ceremony, the town **expressed its gratitude for** the firefighters.
6. To succeed in the movie business, you need a good **person to represent you**.
7. Natalia will **give a rough idea of** how many pencils we need.
8. We waited for the traffic to **decrease in volume** before we left the city.
9. Yesterday's tornado in eastern Kansas **completely ruined** a neighborhood.
10. We **made a long and difficult journey** across the desert for three days.

1c

Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

- Which of the following can be **shammed**?
 - (a) concern
 - (b) honesty
 - (c) sleep
 - (d) interest

- Which of the following might be **estimated**?
 - (a) the cost of repairs
 - (b) the height of a hill
 - (c) the population of a town
 - (d) the number of days in a week

- Which of the following would be **irrelevant** in judging a student's writing?
 - (a) the student's age
 - (b) the student's name
 - (c) the width of the margins
 - (d) the color of the ink used

- Which of the following might result in someone's being **evicted** from a house?
 - (a) failing to pay the rent
 - (b) using it for illegal purposes
 - (c) causing damage to it
 - (d) taking good care of it

- Which of the following can **abate**?
 - (a) anger
 - (b) high winds
 - (c) silence
 - (d) applause

- Which of the following are **precise** amounts?
 - (a) 2,145
 - (b) several hundred
 - (c) half a dozen
 - (d) a lot

- Which of the following might be considered a **trek**?
 - (a) a trip to the corner store
 - (b) a ride in a hot-air balloon
 - (c) a walk across Canada
 - (d) a plane trip to Europe

- Which of the following would be **devastating** to a town?
 - (a) a new mayor
 - (b) an earthquake
 - (c) a shopping mall
 - (d) a celebration

abate
acknowledge
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epidemic
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impartial
industrious
infuriate
irrelevant
precise
sham
trek

1D

Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

Circle the two synonyms in each group of four words.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. authority | expert | agent | practice |
| 2. admit | acknowledge | forget | devastate |
| 3. calculation | decision | estimate | trek |
| 4. secret | irrelevant | fair | impartial |
| 5. weak | fake | precise | sham |
| 6. increase | destroy | devastate | infuriate |

Circle the two antonyms in each group of words.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------|
| 7. abate | rule | increase | evict |
| 8. trek | deny | infuriate | soothe |
| 9. epidemic | precise | inaccurate | angry |
| 10. industrious | irrelevant | strong | lazy |

1E

Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.



The Trail of Tears

The original inhabitants of what is now Kentucky and Tennessee were an **industrious** people who lived mainly by hunting and farming. They were called Cherokees by the Europeans who first made contact with them. The Europeans had settled along the East Coast in the early 1600s. These first meetings between European traders and Cherokees were friendly but were to have **devastating** consequences for the Native Americans later. The Europeans brought goods for trading, it's true. But they also brought smallpox, a disease that had been unknown in North America before their arrival. This disease left the body covered with sores and was often fatal. In 1745, a smallpox **epidemic** struck the Cherokee people. It killed more than half the population. And that was just the beginning of the Cherokee people's woes.

The United States government recognized the Cherokee Nation as a separate country and **acknowledged** its right to sign treaties, or legally binding agreements, with other countries. In treaty after treaty, the Cherokees gave more and more of their land to the United States government. In return, they gained the right to **evict** anyone who settled illegally on the remaining land. But settlers ignored these agreements. They continued to move onto Cherokee land in great numbers. The United States government did not even pretend to be **impartial** in the disputes that arose as a result. The appeals of the Cherokee leaders fell on deaf ears. The theft of their land continued **unabated**. By 1828, the Cherokee nation was one-tenth the size it had been a hundred years earlier.

In 1835, an **agent** of the United States government persuaded twenty Cherokees to sign one final treaty. According to its terms, the Cherokees would get five million dollars for leaving the last of their land and moving almost a thousand miles west. The Cherokee signers had no **authority** to act for the entire Cherokee Nation, but this fact was brushed aside as **irrelevant** by those in the government who wanted the land. The chief justice of the United States declared the agreement a **sham**. His opinion **infuriated** President Andrew Jackson, who replied, “The chief justice has made his decision; now let him enforce it.”

Precisely two years after the signing of the agreement, on the orders of the president, two thousand heavily armed United States soldiers arrived on Cherokee land. They drove the Cherokee families from their homes. Nearly twenty thousand people were forced to **trek** more than nine hundred miles west into what is now Oklahoma. They went mostly on foot. It has been **estimated** that about four thousand Native Americans died on the journey, which became known as the “Trail of Tears.” In a sense, though, the Cherokees had traveled an even longer and even more sorrowful trail, a journey in time that began when the unsuspecting Cherokees first greeted the Europeans as friends.

- ▶ **Answer each of the following questions with a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson’s word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.**

1. Why did smallpox kill so many Cherokees in such a short time?

abate
acknowledge
agent
authority
devastate
epidemic
estimate
evict
impartial
industrious
infuriate
irrelevant
precise
sham
trek

2. About how many Cherokees died of smallpox in 1745?

3. Did the Cherokees' repeated appeals to the United States government slow down the theft of their land?

4. What is the meaning of **agent** as it is used in the passage?

5. Why was the Cherokees' last treaty a **sham**?

6. Why might we think that the Cherokees were successful farmers?

7. Were those who wanted the Cherokees' land influenced by the fact that the Cherokee signers of the 1835 treaty had acted illegally?

8. What is the meaning of **acknowledged** as it is used in the passage?

9. Why do you think President Jackson was **infuriated** by the chief justice's opinion?

10. What is the meaning of **authority** as it is used in the passage?

11. What happened when the Cherokees tried to **evict** illegal settlers?

12. How should the United States government have behaved in dealing with the disputes between the Cherokees and the white settlers?

13. How far did the Cherokees have to travel to get to what is now Oklahoma?

14. Is the figure of twenty thousand persons forced out of their homes an exact one?

15. What kind of effect did the forced removal of the Cherokees from their land have on them?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

.....

- An **epidemic** disease spreads rapidly and affects many people. (Polio was *epidemic* in the U.S. in the 1950s.) An *endemic* disease occurs normally in an area because of the conditions in that area. (Malaria is *endemic* to tropical Africa.)

.....

- **Trek** comes from an old Dutch word *treck*, meaning “to pull or drag.” Dutch settlers in South Africa used the word when describing their journeys by covered wagon because they often had to drag the wagons themselves. The English word, therefore, has come to mean any long, slow, difficult journey.

.....

- *Industry* is a noun and means (1) “a branch of business or manufacturing” (the automobile *industry*; the film *industry*), and (2) “a willingness to work hard” (The teacher praised the student’s *industry*). The two adjectives formed from this noun relate to its two different meanings. *Industrial* means “having to do with business or manufacturing.” (The United States and Japan are two of the world’s leading *industrial* nations.) **Industrious** relates to the second meaning of *industry*.

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1

Vocabulary Extension

estimate

verb To figure out roughly; to make an approximate calculation.

noun A number that is not exact; a careful guess.



Academic Context

You may often be asked to **estimate** things when precise numbers are not quick or easy to figure out.

Sometimes you might **estimate** before counting or measuring something, and then you might compare your **estimate** to the exact number or measurement.

Discussion & Writing Prompt

Describe the last time you **estimated** something. How did you make a careful guess?

2 min.

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

3 min.

2. Write 2–4 sentences.

Be ready to share what you have written.

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

aquatic *adj.* 1. Growing or living in or on water.
Water lilies are **aquatic** plants.
2. Done in or upon water.
Swimming is an **aquatic** sport.

assert *v.* To say firmly; to declare.
Charlie **asserted** that the money entrusted to him was in a safe place.
assertion *n.* A firm statement or declaration.
No one challenged her **assertion** that Tuckerman's Ravine was too dangerous to hike.
assertive *adj.* Self-assured; bold and confident.
Because of his **assertive** manner, he was able to obtain an interview for the summer job.



.....
Assert your feelings about a vegetable, such as broccoli.

avert *v.* 1. To turn away.
I **averted** my eyes from the scary scenes in the movie.
2. To keep from happening.
The driver **averted** an accident by hitting the brake.



.....
Tell your partner what you do to avert being late to school.

bleak *adj.* 1. Without much hope.
The family's future looked **bleak** when both parents lost their jobs.
2. Cold and dreary; exposed to cold winds and bad weather.
Penguins seem to flourish in Antarctica's **bleak** climate.



.....
Discuss with your partner whether the chances for snow tomorrow are bleak or hopeful.

blithe *adj.* 1. Cheerful; carefree.
The children's **blithe** mood is contagious.
2. Not showing proper care; heedless.
The driver showed a **blithe** indifference for the safety of others on the highway.
blithely *adv.* In a carefree manner.
I knew she was happy when she walked **blithely** out the door.

docile
däs' əl

adj. Well behaved; easy to handle.
Because it was my first attempt at riding, I was given the most **docile** horse in the stable.

dwindle
dwin' dəl

v. To continue becoming less; to grow smaller in number or amount.
My hopes of winning the arm-wrestling match **dwindled** when I saw the size of my opponent's muscles.

lethal
lē' thəl

adj. Causing, or capable of causing, death.
A rattlesnake's bite can be **lethal**.

monitor
män' i tər

v. To watch closely and frequently; to observe and make note.
Some cities **monitor** the amount of pollution in the air.
n. A video screen used to display information.
The librarian checked the **monitor** to see if the book was checked out.



.....
Chat with your partner about how often you monitor the clock during school.

mutilate
myōōt' l ət

v. To hurt or damage by cutting into, cutting off, or cutting out.
Bakari had to **mutilate** the old book to use it as a base for his diorama.

nimble
nim' bəl

adj. 1. Able to move quickly and easily.
Trinity's **nimble** fingers plucked the harp strings with amazing speed.
2. Showing quickness of thinking; clever.
It takes a **nimble** mind to solve such a difficult problem.

plight
plīt

n. A difficult or dangerous condition or situation.
The **plight** of homeless people was the principal subject of tonight's evening news.



.....
Talk with your partner about what can be done to ease the plight of stray dogs.

ponderous
pän' dər əs

adj. Heavy and slow moving.
The elephant made its way with **ponderous** steps through the water.

verge
vərj

n. An edge, border, or brink.
After being on the **verge** of extinction, the bald eagle made a remarkable comeback in the 1980s.

v. To come close to the edge or border of.
The story is not merely silly; it **verges** on the ridiculous.



.....
Share with your partner what you do when you are on the verge of losing your temper.

vigilant
vij' ə lənt



adj. Watchful; ready for danger.

Health authorities remain **vigilant** for any signs of the epidemic's return.

.....
Talk to your partner about things you should be vigilant for as you walk home from school.

10A

Using Words in Context

Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write I on the line.

- (a) The grass **verge** by the roadside was a good spot for a picnic. ____

(b) After the two companies **verged**, they became even better. ____

(c) The story he told **verged** on being funny without meaning to. ____

(d) The train **verged** along the track and reached its destination ahead of time. ____
- (a) An **assertive** person like Asif does not take no for an answer. ____

(b) Galileo **asserted** that the earth was not the center of the universe. ____

(c) I challenge your **assertion** that the party will be canceled because of the weather. ____

(d) I joined the **assertion** because I love reading and talking about books. ____
- (a) "Don't worry about it," Shondra said **blithely** when I mentioned the money. ____

(b) The movie takes a **blithe** look at life in the Roaring Twenties. ____

(c) Chien-Shiung showed a **blithe** disregard for her failing grades. ____

(d) He **blithely** practiced the high jump every day after school for hours at a time. ____
- (a) After the fifth day of heavy snow, the number of students who walked to school had **dwindled** to just a few. ____

(b) Carl was **dwindled** out of bed by his blaring alarm. ____

(c) The dirt road had **dwindled** to an uneven and overgrown path. ____

(d) Food was **dwindling** rapidly and needed to be replaced. ____
- (a) Jericho's **nimble** mind was always coming up with something funny to say. ____

(b) Grandma's **nimble** fingers went to work repairing the shirt. ____

(c) Her **nimble** feet stumbled all the time. ____

(d) Our fingers were so **nimble** from the cold that they lost all feeling. ____

aquatic

assert

avert

bleak

blithe

docile

dwindle

lethal

monitor

mutilate

nimble

plight

ponderous

verge

vigilant

6. (a) My favorite **aquatic** sport is diving. ____
(b) Seals and other **aquatic** animals bask in the sun. ____
(c) The spaceship travelled at light speed across deep **aquatic** space. ____
(d) Kelp is an **aquatic** plant that grows in abundance and has many uses. ____
7. (a) The **plight** of the stranded whales drew worldwide attention. ____
(b) I couldn't stop thinking about the **plight** of the lost puppy we had found. ____
(c) We thought we could do something to help his **plight**. ____
(d) The **plight's** colors were mostly gray. ____
8. (a) The sailor kept a **vigilant** watch for icebergs. ____
(b) Reporters keep a **vigilant** eye on what goes on in Washington. ____
(c) The guards had grown slow and **vigilant** and were taken completely by surprise. ____
(d) **Vigilant** sounds coming from the darkness made us shiver in fear. ____
9. (a) It was impossible to **avert** the disaster that followed. ____
(b) We **averted** ourselves closer to the water. ____
(c) I **averted** the unpleasant subject by talking about the weather. ____
(d) I **averted** my gaze from the accident on the news. ____
10. (a) I recognized the **ponderous** footsteps of Grandpa coming into the house. ____
(b) Uncle Biyen's **ponderous** jokes are very funny. ____
(c) The titanosaur was a **ponderous** beast, weighing in at a hundred tons. ____
(d) A **ponderous** cloud floated high above us, threatening rain. ____

10B

Making Connections

Circle the letter next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

- Which word or words go with *happy*?
(a) ecstatic (b) bleak (c) blithe (d) elated
- Which word or words go with *skillful*?
(a) deft (b) bleak (c) ponderous (d) nimble
- Which word or words go with *watchful*?
(a) lethal (b) observant (c) vigilant (d) negligent
- Which word or words go with *causing harm*?
(a) vigilant (b) assert (c) mutilate (d) scald
- Which word or words go with *water*?
(a) drought (b) aquatic (c) monitor (d) lethal
- Which word or words go with *clumsy*?
(a) nimble (b) ungainly (c) aquatic (d) ponderous
- Which word or words go with *watch over*?
(a) mutilate (b) monitor (c) supervise (d) avert
- Which word or words go with *death*?
(a) lethal (b) slaughter (c) fatality (d) aquatic
- Which word or words go with *well behaved*?
(a) acrid (b) docile (c) obedient (d) vigilant
- Which word or words go with *hopeless*?
(a) inevitable (b) blithe (c) bleak (d) grim

aquatic

assert

avert

bleak

blithe

docile

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monitor

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10C

Determining Meanings

Circle the letter next to each answer choice that correctly completes the sentence. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. A **lethal**

- (a) dose of the poison could be as little as a single drop.
- (b) storm left thirty injured and two dead.
- (c) song came on the radio.
- (d) clue in the crossword puzzle had me scratching my head.

2. We **monitored** the

- (a) number of geese in our yard.
- (b) water quality, looking for a rise in minerals.
- (c) sites most students go to on the Internet.
- (d) popcorn into the microwave.

3. It **verges**

- (a) as fast as it possibly can.
- (b) on the absurd to see the kitten lying with the dog.
- (c) its way across the country in hours.
- (d) on insanity to give this much homework.

4. I **averted**

- (a) an accident by slowing my bike down.
- (b) anything with too much sugar.
- (c) some shoes somewhere in the apartment.
- (d) my thoughts from what had happened.

5. I **asserted**

- (a) the money into twenties, tens, fives, and ones.
- (b) my right to speak freely at school.
- (c) a group of friends together to decide what to do.
- (d) my reasons for voting the way I did.

6. A **bleak**

- (a) review in the local paper put the future of the television show in jeopardy.
- (b) weather forecast caused us to change our plans.
- (c) movie was on last night and filled me with joy and hope.
- (d) climate like Antarctica's is not popular with tourists.

7. A **docile**

- (a) dessert like strawberry shortcake is my favorite.
- (b) cat scratched and bit its owner.
- (c) pet is better for families with small children.
- (d) child can still get angry every so often.

8. **Dwindling**

- (a) food supplies meant we would need to cut our camping trip short.
- (b) temperatures might mean snow is coming.
- (c) his hands together, he stood and made an announcement.
- (d) one thing for another was a fair trade.



Completing Sentences

Complete the sentences to demonstrate your knowledge of the words in bold.

1. Something I can **assert** about myself is

_____ .

2. If a person's fingers are **nimble**, that means

_____ .

3. A **mutilated** apple looks

_____ .

4. I'm concerned about the **plight** of

_____ .

5. A **vigilant** parent would

_____ .

6. An example of an **aquatic** animal is

_____ .

7. If you have a **blithe** attitude, that means you

_____ .

8. A sad book might put me on the **verge** of

_____ .

9. If a movie is **bleak**, I feel

_____ .

10. Every day, I **monitor**

_____ .

aquatic

assert

avert

bleak

blithe

docile

dwindle

lethal

monitor

mutilate

nimble

plight

ponderous

verge

vigilant

Read the passage.



Danger: Manatees at Play

The subject of manatees takes us far back in the history of both natural science and imaginative storytelling. Manatees have been in existence for fifty million years. This sea animal was probably what sailors were seeing long ago when they reported visions of mermaids sunning themselves on rocks far in the distance.

Closer observation of the manatee shows it to be a **ponderous** mammal. It measures from eight to twelve feet in length and weighs up to three thousand pounds. The manatee's tapered body, shaped somewhat like that of an overgrown seal or miniature whale, has two front legs and a broad flat tail. The legs and the tail all act as flippers.

Manatees live singly or in small groups. They can eat two hundred pounds of food a day, grazing contentedly on water hyacinths and other **aquatic** plants. A manatee sometimes may stand up straight in the water, often with strings of sea plants hanging like hair from its head.

In the United States, Florida's coastal waters are the manatee's principal habitat. These sea creatures are quite **docile** by nature. In fact, they have no fear of humans; they seem to love company! Manatees allow swimmers to play alongside them, something that is discouraged by game wardens.

Manatees feed just below the surface. They are often unobserved by speeding boaters who may go **blithely** on their way, ignorant of the terrible injuries they have just inflicted. Being struck by a high-speed propeller can be **lethal**; almost a third of all manatee deaths are boat-related. Wildlife wardens estimate that ninety percent of all adult manatees have been **mutilated** by the propellers of speeding boats. The reasons for this are not entirely clear—perhaps the manatees have poor hearing and are unaware of a boat's approach. Perhaps they are simply not **nimble** enough to get out of the way in time.

Because of the enormous increase in the number of powerboats in Florida, for years the manatee population **dwindled**, and the animal's prospects of survival were **bleak**. These creatures were on the **verge** of extinction. But people have become more aware of the **plight** of the manatee. Laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibit harming manatees. More needs to be done, though. People operating powerboats in areas where manatees live need to be more **vigilant**. If they

were, many collisions could be **averted**. And speed limits need to be strictly enforced, even though people whose livelihood depends on the boating industry **assert** that too much regulation would cause economic hardship.

Still, something amazing has happened. In recent years, because Florida authorities carefully **monitored** the manatee population and took actions to protect them, an aerial survey showed that more than six thousand manatees now inhabit the area's waters. Manatees were removed from the endangered-species list in 2016.

► **Answer each of the following questions with a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.**

1. What manatee behavior could have made sailors mistakenly **assert** that they had seen a mermaid?

2. What kind of plant is a water hyacinth?

3. Is the nature of the manatee similar to that of a predator?

4. Is the manatee population still endangered?

5. Have many manatees been injured as a result of collisions with boats?

6. Can a manatee die as a result of being struck by the propeller of a boat?

aquatic
assert
avert
bleak
blithe
docile
dwindle
lethal
monitor
mutilate
nimble
plight
ponderous
verge
vigilant

7. Why do many boaters go **blithely** on their way after striking a manatee?

8. What could boat owners do to protect the manatee population?

9. What is the meaning of **averted** as it is used in the passage?

10. How do Florida authorities keep track of the manatee population?

11. Why would manatees be described as **ponderous**?

12. What is the meaning of **nimble** as it is used in the passage?

13. Why should we be concerned about the manatee?

14. What is the meaning of **bleak** as it is used in the passage?

15. How do people feel about the manatees' **plight**?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

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- The Latin word for *water* is *aqua* and forms the root of the adjective **aquatic**. Other words formed from this root include nouns such as *aquarium* and *aqueduct*, “a large pipe or channel for water.” You might guess that the word *aquiline* comes from the same Latin root. Actually, it comes from a different Latin word altogether, *aquila*, which means “eagle.” An *aquiline* nose is one that is curved like an eagle’s beak.

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- The ancient Greeks believed that the dead went to the underworld, where they bathed in the river Lethe, which caused them to forget their earthly lives. The Latin word *letum*, “death,” comes from the name of the river and forms the English adjective **lethal**, “capable of causing death” (a *lethal* weapon).

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- The noun **plight** carries with it a reminder of love and marriage in centuries past. Once it was a verb and meant “to promise; to pledge.” When two people got engaged to be married, they “plighted their troth.” This means they would dishonor themselves if they were not faithful and true to each other. *Troth* is a word that is no longer in use, meaning “loyalty; faithfulness; honor.” It still appears as part of the word *betroth*, meaning “to promise to marry.”

.....

- Several words come from the Latin *vigilare*, “to be watchful.” In addition to **vigilant**, there is *vigil*, a watch kept during normal hours of sleep (Parents keep a *vigil* by the bedside of a very sick child.) and *vigilante*, a person who takes the law into her or his own hands, usually as part of a group.

aquatic
assert
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monitor
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nimble
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vigilant

10

Vocabulary Extension

monitor

verb To watch carefully; to see how a situation changes over time.

noun A video screen used to display information.

Other Meaning

noun A person who watches something to make sure it is safe or fair.

Academic Context

A teacher or aide **monitors** students while they take a test.

Teachers may assign activities to be completed on computer **monitors**.

Hall **monitors** make sure students are where they are supposed to be during class time.



Discussion & Writing Prompt

Describe how doctors **monitor** their patients. What do they do, and why is it important to **monitor** patients closely?

2 min.

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

3 min.

2. Write 2–4 sentences.

Be ready to share what you have written.
