

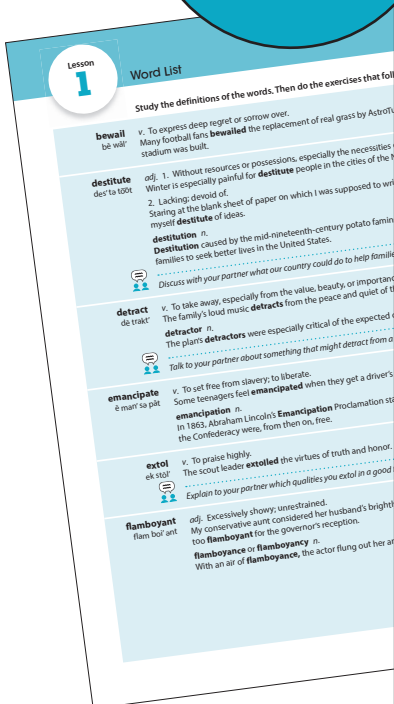
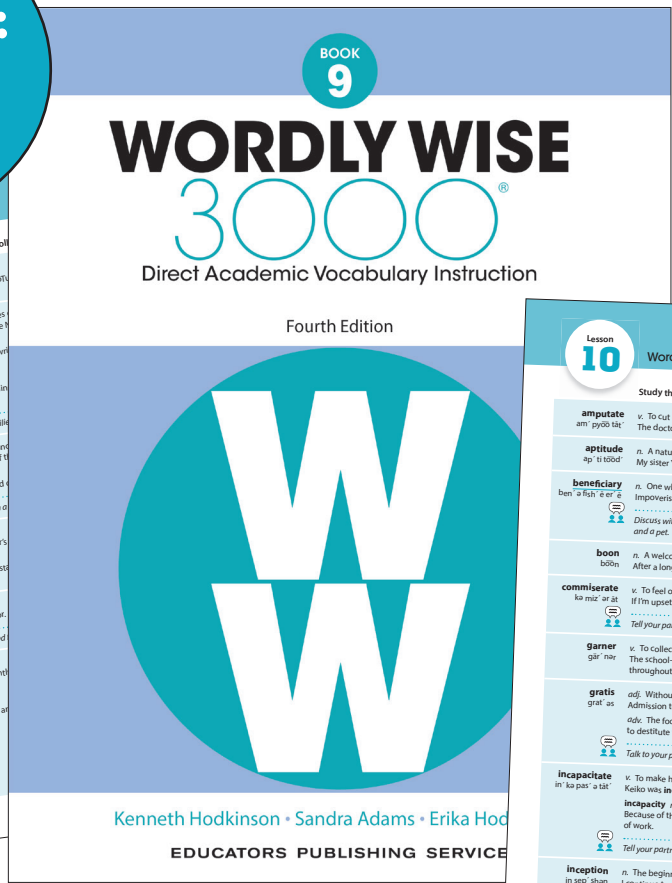
4th Edition

WORDLY WISE 3000®

SAMPLE LESSONS

Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction | Grades K–12 | RTI 

BOOK 9:
Lessons
1 & 10



Word List

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

bewail

bē wāĭ'

v. To express deep regret or sorrow over.

Many football fans **bewailed** the replacement of real grass by AstroTurf when the new stadium was built.

destitute

des' tə tōōt

adj. 1. Without resources or possessions, especially the necessities of life.

Winter is especially painful for **destitute** people in the cities of the Northeast.

2. Lacking; devoid of.

Staring at the blank sheet of paper on which I was supposed to write a poem, I found myself **destitute** of ideas.

destitution n.

Destitution caused by the mid-nineteenth-century potato famine forced many Irish families to seek better lives in the United States.



.....
Discuss with your partner what our country could do to help families facing destitution.

detract

dē trakt'

v. To take away, especially from the value, beauty, or importance of.

The family's loud music **detracts** from the peace and quiet of the beach.

detractor n.

The plan's **detractors** were especially critical of the expected cost of the new town hall.



.....
Talk to your partner about something that might detract from a person's reputation.

emancipate

ē man' sə pāt

v. To set free from slavery; to liberate.

Some teenagers feel **emancipated** when they get a driver's license.

emancipation n.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln's **Emancipation** Proclamation stated that all enslaved people in the Confederacy were, from then on, free.

extol

ek stōl'

v. To praise highly.

The scout leader **extolled** the virtues of truth and honor.



.....
Explain to your partner which qualities you extol in a good friend.

flamboyant

flam boi' ənt

adj. Excessively showy; unrestrained.

My conservative aunt considered her husband's brightly colored, boldly patterned necktie too **flamboyant** for the governor's reception.

flamboyance or **flamboyancy** n.

With an air of **flamboyance**, the actor flung out her arm and pointed to the door.

impetus
im'pə təs

n. 1. A driving force; anything that causes an action.
Her hope of winning an athletic scholarship provided the **impetus** for years of grueling training on the swim team.
2. Increased activity resulting from a driving force.
Kala's low grades gave **impetus** to her increased focus on studying.



.....
Tell your partner one impetus for eating healthily.

insuperable
in sūō'pə ə bəl

adj. Incapable of being overcome or defeated.
During my senior year, passing Physics seemed an **insuperable** obstacle to graduation.

intermittent
in tər mit'nt

adj. Not continuous; happening at intervals.
Showers were **intermittent** throughout the day, although the forecast had promised sunshine.

maxim
maks'im

n. A general truth or rule of conduct; a short saying.
Remember the **maxim** "Actions speak louder than words" when you promise not to be late all the time.

obligatory
ə blig'ə tōr ē

adj. Required or demanded.
Physical education is **obligatory** unless you have a medical excuse for skipping gym class.



.....
Chat with your partner about whether learning a second language should be obligatory for all students.

plumb
plum

v. 1. To measure the depth of water.
The lake was too deep for us to **plumb**.
2. To reach the deepest part of.
The bathyscaphe is a vessel designed to **plumb** the oceans of the world.
3. To understand by examining closely; to solve.
Her latest book of poems is a valiant attempt to **plumb** the human soul.

adj. Straight up and down; vertical.
The bricklayer keeps checking to make sure that the wall being built is **plumb**.



.....
With your partner, plumb the depths of your imagination to come up with a creative idea for a superpower.

vagabond
vag'ə bānd

n. A person who wanders from place to place.
He spent a few years as a **vagabond** before settling in a city and getting a job in a factory.

adj.
The **vagabond** life of traveling musicians suited the members of the band.

visage
viz'ij

n. A face, especially one that expresses feelings.
The smiling **visage** of a young girl looked out from the portrait.



.....
Stare at your partner with a frightening visage.

wheedle
hwēd'əl

v. 1. To coax by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.

He tried to **wheedle** his father into letting him go to a movie on a school night.

2. To gain by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.

Merritt **wheeled** information about the test from her friend who had taken it earlier in the day.

1A

Understanding Meanings

Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write a new sentence using the word correctly.

1. To **emancipate** someone is to release that person.

2. An **obligatory** assignment is one that causes great hardship.

3. An **impetus** sets something into action.

4. To **plumb** a mystery is to understand it by thinking about it carefully.

5. A **vagabond** is a person who lacks the necessities of life.

6. To **wheedle** something from someone is to obtain it by cajoling that person into giving it.

7. To **extol** someone is to show very high regard for that person.

8. An **intermittent** noise is one that keeps stopping and starting.

9. A person's **visage** is that person's feelings about herself.

10. **Destitution** is the state of having all that one could ask for.

11. To **bewail** something is to complain about it.

12. A **detractor** is someone to whom another person is attracted.

13. If something is **insuperable**, its parts cannot be separated from the whole.

14. A **maxim** is the larger of two amounts.

15. **Flamboyance** is lack of restraint in one's dress or behavior.

bewail

destitute

detract

emancipate

extol

flamboyant

impetus

insuperable

intermittent

maxim

obligatory

plumb

vagabond

visage

wheedle

1B

Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group following it, write the word in the blank space. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty. There may be more than one correct answer or no correct answer.

1. **vagabond**

- (a) As actors in a traveling company, we led a _____ life.
- (b) A true _____ becomes restless after two weeks in one place.
- (c) I cashed in my _____ when I ran short of money.

2. **bewail**

- (a) When he cannot see Juliet, Romeo _____ his fate.
- (b) We must _____ them to try harder next time.
- (c) Did you _____ them of the news that we close permanently tomorrow?

3. **intermittent**

- (a) The _____ traffic noises from the city streets below disturbed my sleep.
- (b) The comet has made _____ appearances in the sky.
- (c) What is the cause of these _____ oil leaks from the engine?

4. **extol**

- (a) She loves to _____ the virtues of small-town America.
- (b) The man attempted to _____ cash from the bank before his trip.
- (c) I will continue to _____ her to practice the piano.

5. **plumb**

- (a) Even Sherlock Holmes could not _____ this mystery.
- (b) When we built the house, we hired an electrician to _____ the house.
- (c) If the walls are not _____, the doors will not hang properly.

6. **destitute**

- (a) We had to admit that we were _____ of fresh ideas.
- (b) The mayor's council is making plans to help the city's _____ people.
- (c) The house is completely _____ and needs to be torn down.

7. **obligatory**

- (a) It is not _____ to have someone accompany you to the doctor's appointment.
- (b) It is _____ to carry your driver's license when driving.
- (c) Stopping at a red light is _____ in all fifty states.

8. **emancipate**

- (a) The recipe instructed cooks to _____ the cream before adding it to the melted chocolate.
- (b) I managed to _____ a hundred dollars from my uncle.
- (c) The candidate was unable to _____ more than fifty votes.



Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

Each group of words contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle them. Then circle *S* if they are synonyms or *A* if they are antonyms.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|---|---|
| 1. bewail | admit | pretend | celebrate | S | A |
| 2. precise | secret | wealthy | destitute | S | A |
| 3. estimate | detract | obtain | enhance | S | A |
| 4. enslave | provide | assist | emancipate | S | A |
| 5. extol | wheedle | praise | pause | S | A |
| 6. towering | active | shy | flamboyant | S | A |
| 7. coax | reward | wheedle | recover | S | A |
| 8. impetus | face | visage | payment | S | A |
| 9. heavy | deep | plumb | vertical | S | A |
| 10. smart | strict | voluntary | obligatory | S | A |

bewail
destitute
detract
emancipate
extol
flamboyant
impetus
insuperable
intermittent
maxim
obligatory
plumb
vagabond
visage
wheedle

Images of Words

Circle the letter next to the sentence that suggests the bold vocabulary word.
There may be more than one correct answer or no correct answer.

1. **wheedle**

- (a) Fido stands by the door when he wants to be taken for a walk.
- (b) If you don't help me, I'll tell Mom who broke the window.
- (c) C'mon. You're my favorite aunt; please lend me the money!

2. **destitution**

- (a) Because of the financial catastrophe, the family had to rely temporarily on welfare benefits from the government.
- (b) The pain is in my lower back, Doctor.
- (c) I can't believe you spent fifty dollars on comic books!

3. **impetus**

- (a) On the spur of the moment, I decided to join my sister in Maine.
- (b) I began to take music lessons after inheriting my grandfather's violin.
- (c) I worked all night in order to meet the nine o'clock deadline.

4. **extol**

- (a) Ah! There's nothing like fall in New England!
- (b) Maintaining a good diet and getting more exercise has made me feel really good.
- (c) The Rangers are formidable rivals this season.

5. **detract**

- (a) My father said I'd be doing myself a favor if I cut my hair.
- (b) He looked very well groomed except for his muddy shoes.
- (c) I apologized for expressing my impatience with her slowness.

6. **insuperable**

- (a) There is no finer rose anywhere than the wild prairie rose.
- (b) No one has yet succeeded in rowing alone across the Pacific.
- (c) With five minutes to go, we were losing the basketball game by fifty points.

7. **visage**

- (a) My shoe size is 7.5 narrow.
- (b) I could tell at once that my answer had made her happy.
- (c) From this spot, you can see for miles in all directions.

8. **obligatory**

- (a) If you want to be on the committee, be at the next meeting.
- (b) Guests at White House state dinners must wear formal attire.
- (c) He finally had to admit that we were hopelessly lost.

9. **bewail**

- (a) Democracy doesn't work well with such a poor voter turnout.
- (b) From our cabin, we could hear the eerie howling of the wolves.
- (c) We'd all be better off if television had never been invented.

10. **maxim**

- (a) Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
- (b) Can you lend me five dollars until Friday?
- (c) The money is in his pocket.

1E

Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.

Faces in the Mountain

Visitors to South Dakota find that a trip to Mount Rushmore is almost **obligatory**, for there they can see one of America's most awe-inspiring monuments. Carved into a granite mountainside, the colossal heads of four United States presidents are visible for a distance of sixty miles. Side by side, the **visages** of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt range from fifty to seventy feet in height. They are the work of the remarkable American sculptor and dramatic personality Gutzon Borglum.

Born in Idaho in 1867, Borglum led an artist's **vagabond** life in America and Europe for twenty years before settling in New York City in 1901. There, he soon achieved an international reputation as a sculptor. The idea that "Small is beautiful" would not have applied to Borglum; his view was that "Bigger is better."

The **impetus** for the Mount Rushmore project came in 1926 when the state historian of South Dakota, knowing Borglum's views, invited him to create a monumental work of art for the Black Hills mountain region. Borglum accepted the challenge immediately, but the project he proposed did not meet with universal approval. Many felt that the carvings would **detract** from the area's natural beauty. Cora Johnson, a South Dakota journalist, expressed such feelings when she wrote: "Man makes statues, but God made the mountains. Leave them alone." Borglum, however, was not one to heed this advice.

The question of which national figures to honor caused much debate. Sioux Chief Red Cloud, who had fought against white encroachment on Native American lands, was one of the names proposed. Another was Susan B. Anthony, who had **bewailed** nineteenth-century women's lack of the right to vote in political elections, and led the struggle to **emancipate** them from this deprivation. The final decision, however, was left to Borglum. Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln were obvious choices, but Borglum had a personal reason for his fourth selection, a man of

bewail
destitute
detract
emancipate
extol
flamboyant
impetus
insuperable
intermittent
maxim
obligatory
plumb
vagabond
visage
wheedle

enormous energy who **extolled** physical fitness and vigorous activity. In his own life, Borglum strove to emulate his hero, so Theodore Roosevelt became the fourth figure honored at Mount Rushmore.

Money to pay for the project was a problem from the beginning, and work proceeded **intermittently**, especially after 1930, when the country was in the grip of the Great Depression. During those years, Borglum made frequent visits to the nation's capital seeking financial assistance. Loath to stoop to **wheedling**, the sculptor managed to convince a reluctant Congress to provide funding to go on with the project. Nor was lack of funds the only problem Borglum had to grapple with. Because of the hard granite rock, the difficulties of carving out the faces had at first seemed **insuperable**, but Borglum solved the problem by exploding small charges of dynamite to remove pieces of rock. Under his supervision, workers in harnesses suspended from the mountaintop drilled, chipped, and chiseled away at the rock. So skillful was Borglum that his eye for precise measurement enabled him to tell if a line was **plumb** to a quarter of an inch.

During his lifetime, Borglum had earned enormous sums from the sale of his works. However, he did not embrace Benjamin Franklin's **maxim** "A penny saved is a penny earned." Instead, he lived a **flamboyant** lifestyle. His daughter, Mary Ellis, recalls: "He loved flashy cars and hired chauffeurs to drive them." So careless was he about money that he died **destitute** on March 6, 1941, before he'd finished Mount Rushmore. It was left to his son Lincoln, who had assisted him throughout, to complete the project eight months later.

► **Answer each question with a sentence. If a question does not contain a word from the lesson, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.**

1. Why might the original **detractors** of the Mount Rushmore project have a different view of it today?

2. Why would it be incorrect to refer to the Mount Rushmore sculptures as statues?

3. Why might a biographer of Borglum have difficulty describing what his subject was doing before 1901?

4. List two **maxims** that Borglum did not believe in.

5. Why was Susan B. Anthony considered a candidate for one of the places of honor on Mount Rushmore?

6. Why might Borglum's children have **bewailed** his **flamboyant** lifestyle?

7. What was the **impetus** for Borglum's trips to Washington, D.C., in the 1930s?

8. What were two almost **insuperable** problems that Borglum faced with this project?

9. What skill did Borglum possess that would be especially useful when working on a large monument such as Mount Rushmore?

10. How do you know that the state historian of South Dakota did not have to **wheedle** to get Borglum to take on the Mount Rushmore project?

11. Why might Borglum's son have felt it was **obligatory** to complete the monument?

bewail

destitute

detract

emancipate

extol

flamboyant

impetus

insuperable

intermittent

maxim

obligatory

plumb

vagabond

visage

wheedle

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

.....

- A **flamboyant** person is someone who attracts attention by behaving in a showy way. The word *flamboyant* reflects this. It comes from the French verb *flamboyer*, which means "to blaze."

.....

- The word **plumb** comes from the Latin root *plumbum*, meaning "lead." Some other words come from that root. One

is *plumber*, a person who installs and repairs kitchen and bathroom pipes (which were once made of lead). The other is *plummet*, a verb meaning, "to fall straight down; to plunge." That meaning comes from the fact that a string with a lead weight attached to it is called a *plumb* line. It is lowered into the water and plunges, or plum-mets, to the bottom, giving a measure of depth.

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

amputate

am' pyōō tāt'

v. To cut off a body part, especially by surgery.

The doctor had to **amputate** the mountain climber's frostbitten toes.

aptitude

ap' ti tōōd'

n. A natural talent.

My sister Yolanda has an **aptitude** for math that has always made me envious.

beneficiary

ben' ə fish' ē er' ē

n. One who benefits or gains an advantage from something.

Impoverished families will be the **beneficiaries** of these low-rent apartments.



.....
Discuss with your partner who the beneficiary is in the relationship between a person and a pet.

boon

bōōn

n. A welcome gift or blessing.

After a long dry spell, the rain was a **boon** to the farmers.

commiserate

kə miz' ə r āt

v. To feel or express sorrow or compassion for; to sympathize.

If I'm upset about something, it helps me feel better if someone **commiserates** with me.



.....
Tell your partner how you might commiserate with an unhappy friend or family member.

garner

gār' nər

v. To collect or gather; to acquire or obtain.

The school-committee candidate **garnered** support by going from door to door throughout the district to meet people.

gratis

grat' əs

adj. Without payment; free of charge.

Admission to the museum is **gratis** on Mondays.

adv. The food packages students put together before Thanksgiving were offered **gratis** to destitute families in the community.



.....
Talk to your partner about an event or item you wish were gratis.

incapacitate

in' kə pas' ə tāt'

v. To make helpless or incapable.

Keiko was **incapacitated** for six weeks while her leg was in a cast.

incapacity *n.*

Because of the **incapacity** that resulted from her car accident, Melda missed eleven days of work.



.....
Tell your partner about a time you were incapacitated by an accident or an illness.

inception

in sep' shən

n. The beginning of an action or process.

I continue to extol the math club because it has been a success from the day of its **inception**.

magnanimous
mag nan' ə məs

adj. Generous, unselfish, or forgiving.

Nelson Mandela was too **magnanimous** to seek revenge on his persecutors.

magnanimity *n.* Quality of being above meanness or spite; generosity of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly.

Although he was found to have been jailed unjustly, he displayed great **magnanimity** on his release.

myriad
mir' ē əd

n. A very large number.

A **myriad** of mosquitoes swarmed around us as we traversed the swampy area.

adj. Very many.

Myriad beautiful tropical fish swam in the warm waters of the gulf.

practicable
prak' ti kə bəl

adj. 1. Capable of being done; feasible.

Making a community garden in that vacant lot is a **practicable** plan, but you'll have to get permission from the city first.

2. Usable.

Motor boats are not **practicable** in the waters of the Florida Everglades.



.....
Chat with your partner about whether it is practicable to schedule classes so that all students have Fridays off.

remunerate
rē myōō' nə r āt'

v. To pay or reward.

Were you **remunerated** for the work you did for the school's used-book sale, or was it voluntary?

remuneration *n.*

Acting as a public defender for clients who cannot afford a lawyer does not offer great financial **remuneration**.



.....
Tell your partner about a chore or task you performed for no remuneration.

solicit
sə lis' it

v. To ask for in a formal way.

Ms. Vargas came to our apartment to **solicit** contributions to her husband's campaign.

solicitation *n.*

Although I considered their cause a good one, I could not afford to respond to their repeated **solicitations** for money.



.....
Pretend you are soliciting your partner for the use of his or her pencil.

trite
trīt

adj. Used so much that it is no longer fresh or new.

"Fresh as a daisy" is a **trite** expression, but I sometimes find myself using it anyway.

10A

Determining Precise Meaning

Choose the most accurate paraphrase for each sentence.

1. We all felt that Andrew had behaved with **magnanimity**.
 - (a) We all felt that Andrew had behaved with **generosity of spirit**.
 - (b) We all felt that Andrew had behaved **in a mean and spiteful way**.
2. The document names my mother as the **beneficiary**.
 - (a) The document names my mother as the **heir**.
 - (b) The document names my mother as the **donor**.
3. A majority felt that the project would be a **boon** for the town.
 - (a) A majority felt that the project would be a **disaster** for the town.
 - (b) A majority felt that the project would be a **benefit** for the town.
4. There was a **myriad** of daisies in the meadow.
 - (a) There were a **great number** of daisies in the meadow.
 - (b) There were **hardly any** daisies in the meadow.
5. Anika's **aptitude** for making up stories was well known.
 - (a) Anika's **reason** for making up stories was well known.
 - (b) Anika's **natural gift** for making up stories was well known.
6. Entry to the zoo is **gratis** for children under age three.
 - (a) Entry to the zoo is **restricted** for children under age three.
 - (b) Entry to the zoo is **free** for children under age three.
7. I make an effort to avoid **trite** expressions.
 - (a) I make an effort to avoid **overused** expressions.
 - (b) I make an effort to avoid **bigoted** expressions.
8. The volunteers were **remunerated** for their efforts.
 - (a) The volunteers were **thanked** for their efforts.
 - (b) The volunteers were **paid** for their efforts.
9. Julio missed a week of school when he was **incapacitated**.
 - (a) Julio missed a week of school when he was **unwell**.
 - (b) Julio missed a week of school when he was **on vacation**.
10. Janeka is good at **commiserating** with people.
 - (a) Janeka is good at **having a good time** with people.
 - (b) Janeka is good at **sympathizing** with people.
11. We helped **solicit** votes for Mayor Eduardo.
 - (a) We helped **count** votes for Mayor Eduardo.
 - (b) We helped **encourage** votes for Mayor Eduardo.

amputate

aptitude

beneficiary

boon

commiserate

garner

gratis

incapacitate

inception

magnanimous

myriad

practicable

remunerate

solicit

trite

12. The project was deemed **practicable** by the committee.
(a) The project was deemed **too expensive** by the committee.
(b) The project was deemed **feasible** by the committee.
13. The moment the sun set marked the **inception** of the fireworks.
(a) The moment the sun set marked the **beginning** of the fireworks.
(b) The moment the sun set marked the **end** of the fireworks.
14. Squirrels **garner** nuts.
(a) Squirrels **collect** nuts.
(b) Squirrels **eat** nuts.
15. The doctor hopes she will not have to **amputate** the finger.
(a) The doctor hopes she will not have to **locate** the finger.
(b) The doctor hopes she will not have to **cut off** the finger.

10B

Understanding Word Relationships

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

1. Which word or words are related to *ask*?
(a) garner
(b) beseech
(c) entreat
(d) solicit
2. Which word or words are related to *money*?
(a) beneficiary
(b) benign
(c) bequeath
(d) remunerate
3. Which word or words are related to *cut off*?
(a) depreciate
(b) amputate
(c) commiserate
(d) sever
4. Which word or words are related to *generous*?
(a) lavish
(b) magnanimous
(c) trite
(d) philanthropic

5. Which word or words are related to *obtain*?
 - (a) repose
 - (b) garner
 - (c) bustle
 - (d) acquire

6. Which word or words are related to *lacking originality*?
 - (a) threadbare
 - (b) impervious
 - (c) practicable
 - (d) trite

7. Which word or words are related to *beginning*?
 - (a) manipulation
 - (b) myriad
 - (c) onset
 - (d) inception

8. Which word or words are related to *sympathize*?
 - (a) aptitude
 - (b) garner
 - (c) commiserate
 - (d) salvage

9. Which word or words are related to *skill*?
 - (a) aptitude
 - (b) boon
 - (c) ingenuity
 - (d) competence

10. Which word or words are related to *doable*?
 - (a) magnanimous
 - (b) practicable
 - (c) feasible
 - (d) nondescript

amputate
aptitude
beneficiary
boon
commiserate
garner
gratis
incapacitate
inception
magnanimous
myriad
practicable
remunerate
solicit
trite

10C

Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

Each group of words contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle them. Then circle *S* if they are synonyms or *A* if they are antonyms.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---|---|
| 1. fateful | selfish | uneasy | magnanimous | S | A |
| 2. boon | blessing | dogma | aptitude | S | A |
| 3. garner | repose | enable | incapacitate | S | A |
| 4. inception | quandary | lapse | termination | S | A |
| 5. flamboyant | nondescript | brief | erudite | S | A |
| 6. solicit | sparkle | sojourn | scintillate | S | A |
| 7. affront | pariah | repose | compliment | S | A |
| 8. tacit | deficient | spoken | synthetic | S | A |
| 9. trite | raucous | sumptuous | Spartan | S | A |
| 10. copy | myriad | facsimile | beneficiary | S | A |

10D

Understanding Contextual Meanings

Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write a new sentence using the word correctly.

1. The rocket reached an **aptitude** of fifty thousand feet.

2. The society has grown tenfold since its **inception**.

3. The soup was **trite** and badly in need of some seasoning.

4. In a **magnanimous** gesture, Oliver forgave the bully.

5. A lightning strike **incapacitated** us because the electricity went out for several hours.

6. **Myriads** of ants descended on our picnic.

7. I was **commiserated** for the mistake with a refund.

8. Fortunately, the advice I got from my parents' lawyer was **gratis**.

9. Still dazed, Samar tried to **remunerate** what had happened to him.

10. The sudden drop in temperature was a **boon** after the long heat wave.

amputate

aptitude

beneficiary

boon

commiserate

garner

gratis

incapacitate

inception

magnanimous

myriad

practicable

remunerate

solicit

trite

Dogs with a Cause

Debbie Walrod was an athletic young Californian, a former professional model and a ballerina, until a rare blood infection resulted in **amputation** of her legs and all her fingers. She was concerned about her prospects for leading an active life. Then, through a program called Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), Walrod was matched with Oregon, a service dog, and her life became charged with possibility. “He’s my hands, my feet, my best friend,” she says gratefully.

CCI was created in 1975 by Dr. Bonita Bergin. Bergin is a former teacher who specialized in helping students who were physically disabled because of injury or disease. She knew that guide dogs had provided valuable help to people who are blind for many years, and she wondered if it would be possible to train dogs to perform the **myriad** tasks that most of us take for granted in our daily lives. Professional dog handlers were, for the most part, discouraging; they did not consider the idea **practicable**. However, Bergin did **garner** the support of health-care professionals who, up until that point, had been able to do little more than **commiserate** with clients with disabilities.

The dogs Bergin trained were supplied **gratis** to those who could not afford them. Although she worked out of her home with helpers who received little **remuneration**, costs were high, and for the first few years there was doubt about whether the program would succeed. Bergin **solicited** contributions from the public, and thanks to the **magnanimity** of those who responded, CCI not only survived, it flourished. During the course of her work, Bergin found that younger dogs were easier to train than older dogs. She also found that Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers showed a special **aptitude** for the kind of work required, so she began breeding them for this purpose.

There’s a **trite** saying that “nothing succeeds like success.” The phrase certainly applies to CCI, which since its establishment has spawned dozens of similar organizations. One of them is Paws with a Cause. It provided Steven Normandin with Sage, a black Labrador. Steve was diagnosed in infancy with cerebral palsy, a disease that affects muscle coordination and left him severely **incapacitated**. Trained to follow particular commands and use special straps that Steve carries, Sage opens and closes doors, turns light switches on and off, and pushes elevator buttons. She can retrieve pencils and other small objects from the floor and even knows what to do in case of fire. After hearing the command “Get help,” Sage will do just that, jumping through a window if necessary.

Since its **inception**, Paws with a Cause has grown rapidly. Of special interest is its Foster Puppies Program. Volunteers take care of puppies in their homes from the time they are weaned until they are a year old and mature enough to begin serious training with professional dog handlers. Among the **beneficiaries** of this program are

not only those who are eventually teamed up with dogs, but also those who cared for the puppies during this critical period, many of whom are children.

Organizations like CCI and Paws with a Cause are a real **boon** to people who previously found themselves outside the mainstream of daily life. They also bring out the best in those who participate in the program, either by donating their time or their money. In addition, much has been learned about dog psychology and behavior. Bergin formalized such studies when she founded the Assistance Dog Institute, which is now called the Bergin University of Canine Studies, an accredited university. It has been a leader in research, development, education, training, and placement of assistance dogs. What's the most surprising thing Dr. Bergin has learned about dogs? She says it's the capacity of the right puppies to learn behaviors that once seemed impossible. "Their brains are like sponges, they just soak up information," she says proudly.

► **Answer each question with a sentence. If a question does not contain a word from the lesson, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.**

1. What do Debbie Walrod and Steven Normandin have in common?

2. If a service-dog organization were to **solicit** help today, what do you think the likely response would be?

3. What was the attitude of professional dog trainers toward Bergin's plan before the **inception** of CCI?

4. What was particularly **magnanimous** about the earliest workers for Bergin?

5. How is Sage a **boon** to Steven Normandin's life?

6. What would an English teacher be likely to say about the expression "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" if it were used to explain one of Bonita Bergin's discoveries?

7. What did Bonita Bergin discover about Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers?

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8. Why might people have **commiserated** with Debbie Walrod right after her illness?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

- Two Latin words, *magnus*, "great," and *animus*, "spirit," combine to form **magnanimous**. A *magnanimous* person is one who shows greatness of spirit. Its antonym is *pusillanimous*, formed from the Latin *pusillus*, "very small," and *animus*, "spirit," which means "lacking courage, cowardly."
- Two words easily confused because their meanings overlap are *practical* and **practicable**. That which is *practicable* is capable of being done; that which is *practical* is useful and sensible. Converting the nation's railroad tracks into bicycle paths is *practicable* (that is, it can be done); however, because the country needs railroads more than bicycle paths, it is not *practical*. Putting chains on automobile tires in wintry weather is both *practicable* (that is, it can be done) and *practical* (because it is a sensible thing to do to prevent accidents).

10

Vocabulary Extension



beneficiary

noun A person or group who benefits or receives an advantage from something.

*The little girl is the **beneficiary** of a bike from her older sister.*

Academic Context

Public schools are the **beneficiaries** of property and income taxes paid to state and local governments.

Word Family

benefactor (noun)

benefit (noun)

beneficial (adjective)

beneficially (adverb)

Discussion & Writing Prompt

List three things you would like to be the **beneficiary** of, and explain your choices.

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 3–5 sentences.

Be ready to share what you have written.
