

WORDLY WISE

3000

Book **7**

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Recommended for grade 10

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Lesson 17

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

aggregate
ag' rə gət

n. A group of things gathered into a whole; sum total.
[The *aggregate* of human experience had been compressed into that one extraordinary volume.]

adj.

[The company's *aggregate* earnings for the fourth quarter were lower than expected.]

allocate
al' ə kät

v. 1. To set aside for a specific purpose; to allot.
[Courtney *allocated* at least one hour a day for exercise.]
2. To distribute according to a plan.
[Ramon *allocated* his extra money to three charities.]

augur
ô' gər

v. To predict future events, especially from omens.
[From the animal's strange behavior, the farmer could *augur* the imminent arrival of bad weather.]
2. To give promise of.
[These laudatory reviews *augur* well for the success of Angela's play.]

bastion
bas' chən

n. 1. A fortified area or position; a person, place, or thing that is a source of strength.
[The math advisor was a *bastion* of strength for students who were taking the advanced placement test.]
2. Something that is considered a stronghold.
[English novelist Mary Ann Evans used the pseudonym George Eliot for her work at a time when literature was largely a male *bastion*.]

decorum
de kôr' ə m

n. Suitable, proper behavior or speech.
[Talking loudly during a movie shows a lack of *decorum*.]

defunct
dē fuŋkt'

adj. No longer existing or functioning.
[The typewriter store, once a thriving business, is *defunct* now that computers have become popular.]

disarray
dis ə rā'

n. A lack of order; confusion.
[It was hard to find anything on Sonje's desk because it was in complete *disarray*.]

halcyon
hal' sē ən

adj. Calm, peaceful, and happy; prosperous.
[Cassandra remembered the *halcyon* days when she was a little girl, playing with her best friend, Anissa.]

homily
häm' ə lē

n. A lecture, usually long, on how to behave morally.
[Ms. Perkins was known for frequently delivering *homilies* to students who treated others rudely.]

hyperbole
hī pur' bə lē

n. Extravagant exaggeration.
[Charisse was using *hyperbole* when she described Ted as being as tall as a giraffe.]

importune
im pôr tōōn'

v. To plead for persistently.
[Lynette repeatedly *importuned* Chrissy to go shopping with her.]

jurisdiction
joor is dik' shən

n. Legal authority to govern or control.
[The federal government has *jurisdiction* over the nation's air traffic control system.]

ruminate
rōō' mə nāt

v. To think over again and again; to ponder.
[I spent weeks *ruminating* about the meaning of Kafka's novella *Metamorphosis*.]

rumination *n.* The act of pondering; reflection.
[Einstein's *ruminations* led him to challenge common perceptions of time and space.]

temerity
tə mer' ə tē

n. Reckless boldness without regard to danger or opposition.
[Desmond did not have the *temerity* to correct the French teacher's faulty pronunciation.]

winnow
win' ō

v. To separate and remove what is undesirable and leave what is desirable; to blow away the chaff from grain.
[It was Nadia's job to interview potential employees, *winnow* out the unqualified candidates, and recommend the qualified candidates for a second interview.]

17A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences in each group below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in boldface, write C on the line of the corresponding number below the group. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in boldface is used correctly.

- 1. To **ruminate** over something is to think deeply about it.
- 2. To have **jurisdiction** over something is to have legal authority over it.
- 3. A **defunct** organization is one that functions as part of a larger group.
- 4. To act with **temerity** is to act with a reckless disregard for negative consequences.
- 5. To **winnow** grain is to separate the wheat from the chaff.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

- 6. To **allocate** funds is to receive them for some worthwhile purpose.
- 7. The **aggregate** of things is the collection of them.

8. A **homily** is a brief saying that contains much wisdom.
 9. A **bastion** is something that serves as a source of protection.
 10. To **importune** someone is to pester that person for something.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

- 11. **Decorum** is proper behavior.
 12. A **halcyon** era is one that seems to have been happy and peaceful.
 13. To **augur** something is to foretell its occurrence.
 14. To be in **disarray** is to be in a state of disorder.
 15. To engage in **hyperbole** is to act agitated or nervous.

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

17B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in boldface fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

1. **importune**

- (a) My little brother _____ me to take him to the puppet show until I gave in.
 (b) This is an _____ time to bring up such a delicate matter.
 (c) Television commercials _____ viewers to Buy! Buy! Buy!

2. **winnow**

- (a) It was my job to _____ out the errors in the thirty-two-page document.
 (b) The filter _____ the lighter husks from the heavier grain.
 (c) After we _____ out the author's prejudices from the facts in her article, we realized that she gave little firm support for her argument.

3. **aggregate**

- (a) Eden _____ everyone at the meeting by insisting on doing things her way.
 (b) Noel found the _____ of shirts sold by tallying up the amount of shirts customers ordered and deducting the number of shirts that were returned.

(c) Last year’s theater ticket sales reached an _____ of almost fifty thousand dollars.

4. **allocate**

- (a) We _____ a third of all income from sales for repairs to the building.
- (b) How much time do you _____ for homework each evening?
- (c) We need to _____ one of the rooms as a storage area.

5. **disarray**

- (a) The candidate’s unexpected withdrawal threw the election into _____ .
- (b) Our class was _____ by the fire alarm.
- (c) The organization was in a state of _____ until Ravi took it over.

6. **augur**

- (a) Eight nominations for the Academy Awards _____ well for the movie’s ticket sales.
- (b) Tia couldn’t decide whether she _____ appropriately at the formal party.
- (c) The lack of funds and poor management _____ failure for the project.

7. **homily**

- (a) The subject of the guest speaker’s _____ was “How to do more with your time.”
- (b) The _____ of the story is “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
- (c) The annual charity event _____ drew a larger than average crowd this year.

8. **halcyon**

- (a) The TV program looks back at the _____ era known as “television’s golden age.”
- (b) The book brought back memories of Zach’s _____ days visiting his grandparents.
- (c) Jason was very angry with his sister and called her _____ names.

17C Synonyms, Antonyms, Analogies

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|---|
| 1. JURISDICTION | CAUTION | | |
| HONESTY | TEMERITY | S | A |
| 2. JURISDICTION | CONFUSION | | |
| INTERFERENCE | DISARRAY | S | A |

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|---|
| 3. DENY | DISTRIBUTE | | |
| ALLOCATE | IMPORTUNE | S | A |
| 4. TURBULENT | HALCYON | | |
| DEFUNCT | SUITABLE | S | A |
| 5. WINNOW | SUGGEST | | |
| RUMINATE | SIFT | S | A |

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

6. PORTION : AGGREGATE ::
 (a) minimum : maximum (c) plus : minus
 (b) vestige : plethora (d) part : whole
7. RUMINATE : CONCLUSION ::
 (a) discuss : decision (c) condone : consideration
 (b) liberate : incarceration (d) instigate : repertoire
8. HOMILY : INSTRUCT ::
 (a) accolade : condone (c) conundrum : baffle
 (b) obituary : amuse (d) manifesto : reward
9. HYPERBOLE : UNDERSTATEMENT ::
 (a) banter : treatise (c) pseudonym : misnomer
 (b) adulation : condemnation (d) derivative : juncture
10. IMPORTUNE : DISCOURAGE ::
 (a) behave : annoy (c) augment : curtail
 (b) augur : insinuate (d) discriminate : discern

17D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered boldface vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. **bastion**

- (a) Martin Luther King Jr. and others kept the Civil Rights Movement going despite strong opposition.
- (b) For many years, military academies were able to exclude female students.
- (c) The Panama Canal, completed in 1914, connects the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

2. homily

- (a) The speaker regaled the audience with a string of amusing anecdotes.
- (b) The school principal lectured us on the importance of doing what is right.
- (c) “Drive carefully,” Mother said as she gave me the keys to the car.

3. jurisdiction

- (a) I must have told Juris a hundred times to stay out of my room.
- (b) The Passport Office is a part of the State Department.
- (c) The Department of the Interior is responsible for all national parks.

4. temerity

- (a) A stranger came up to me and asked for a “loan” of a hundred dollars.
- (b) Holden was shaking with fear as he crossed the rope bridge high above the gorge.
- (c) Alexa tends to leap before she looks.

5. decorum

- (a) The room had been freshly painted and new drapes had been hung.
- (b) The tall sailing ships made a graceful entry into the harbor.
- (c) It’s always a pleasure to go to Jamal’s house for dinner because he’s such a gracious host.

6. hyperbole

- (a) Whatever you’ve got in this box, it weighs a ton.
- (b) Janna is as slow as molasses.
- (c) While Joelle was waiting for news about her sister’s operation, she couldn’t sit still and paced constantly until the phone call came through.

7. winnow

- (a) Paolo made a list of all the food he needed for the party.
- (b) In less than a year, Nathan had spent his entire inheritance.
- (c) The moon was just a thin curved sliver in the night sky.

8. ruminare

- (a) Nick couldn’t stand all of Elijah’s nagging.
- (b) “I’ve been giving your proposal a great deal of thought,” said Grandfather.
- (c) The idea for the story had been on Sebastian’s mind for some time.

9. importune

- (a) Father reminded me to be sure to lock the front door when I came home.
- (b) That salesperson trying to sell perfume refused to take no for an answer.
- (c) Every day these tomatoes are flown into the country from Holland.

10. defunct

- (a) Avery was so scared that he turned and ran as fast as his legs could carry him.
- (b) After seventy years, the Soviet Union came to an end in the 1980s.
- (c) The last issue of the magazine came out in May 1994.

17E Narrative

Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows it.

THE ALL-AMERICAN GIRLS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

Professional sports, long a male **bastion** in the United States, have been opening up to include more women. In 1997, two professional women's basketball leagues and a professional women's softball league were formed. In the 1998 Winter Olympics, women's ice hockey, snowboarding, and curling were all added to the games for the first time.

This growth in women's professional sports was preceded many years ago by a women's baseball league, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). The AAGPBL came into existence in 1943, after the United States had become embroiled in World War II. With most minor league players drafted into the service and half of the major league players in military uniform, baseball was in **disarray**, and the 1943 season was in doubt. Philip Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, was **ruminating** in his office over the situation when an idea came to him: women were doing many of the jobs previously done by men; perhaps they could play professional baseball, too.

Women's softball enjoyed great popularity at this time; in the Los Angeles area alone there were more than a thousand teams. Scouts began an intensive national search for the most talented players. From more than a hundred hopefuls who came to Chicago's Wrigley Field in 1943 for tryouts, they **winnowed** out sixty potential players. Fifteen players were **allocated** to each of the four teams in the new league: the Racine Belles and Kenosha Comets in Wisconsin, the South Bend Blue Sox in Indiana, and the Rockford Peaches in Illinois. The players were employed by the Wrigley organization, which initially had **jurisdiction** over all aspects of the league until ownership of each team was given to the town for which it played.

During the first season, paid attendance at AAGPBL games often exceeded 3,000, which **augured** well for the league's future. In addition, players' salaries were generous by the standards of the time. In 1943, the average working person's salary ranged from \$10 to \$20 a week; players were making between \$45 and \$85 dollars a week.

In addition to playing baseball, players were required to be "feminine" and of "high moral standing." As a result, players were directed to wear lipstick during games, to make sure that their hair showed from under their baseball caps, and to wear skirts at all times when in public. Each team had a chaperone, who was hired to watch over the athletes and to deliver **homilies** in case any of the players had the **temerity** to violate the rules of **decorum**.

By 1948, the league had expanded to ten teams, and the **aggregate** of ticket sales for the season topped the one-million-dollar mark. The game got tougher over the years. In the beginning, a softball with a twelve-inch circumference was thrown underhand; by 1954, pitchers were throwing a standard nine-inch hardball overhand. Base path lengths and pitching distances also increased. The level of play was extremely high. Hall-of-Famer Max Carey, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, was not engaging in **hyperbole** when he stated that a 1946 game between the Rockford Peaches and the Racine Belles was “Barring none, even in the majors, . . . the best game I’ve ever seen.”

The televising of men’s major league games in the early 1950s caused a sharp drop-off in attendance at AAGPBL games, and by the end of the 1954 season the league was **defunct**. The players went their separate ways, keeping alive the memory of those **halcyon** days by means of newsletters.

For years, few people remembered or knew of the existence of the AAGPBL. However, in the late 1980s, Frances Janssen, a former AAGPBL player with the Fort Wayne Daisies, worked with other former league players to **importune** the Baseball Hall of Fame for official recognition of the league. In 1988, the Baseball Hall of Fame officially recognized the league, and in 1992, a major motion picture, *A League of Their Own*, depicted the life of the league and some of its dominant players.

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. Whenever a vocabulary word does not appear in the question, try to use one (or a form of one) in your answer. In a few cases, both question and answer may contain vocabulary words.

1. About how many women’s softball teams were in existence around Los Angeles in the early 1940s?

2. Where did the idea for the AAGPBL come from?

3. How were players chosen at the Chicago tryouts?

4. Who eventually assumed control of the AAGPBL teams?

5. How does the narrative suggest that a paid attendance of 3,000 was a good record for the first season of the AAGPBL?

6. What made the years of the AAGPBL a **halcyon** time for the players?

7. What might team chaperones **importune** their charges about?

8. What caused the AAGPBL to fall into **disarray** and what was the result?

9. Why does baseball owe a debt of gratitude to Frances Janssen?

10. What **bastion** did Frances Janssen challenge?

WORDLY WISE

In ancient Rome, priests who foretold the future were called *augurs*. They made their predictions by studying the internal organs of birds, by studying their flight, and by various other esoteric means. The word survives as the English verb **augur**, “to indicate future events.”

The word **bastion** can be traced to the Old French word *bastillon*, which meant “a fortress.” Over time, the word transformed into *bastille* and came to mean to “a prison.” The Bastille was the Paris prison stormed by a mob on July 14, 1789 at the onset of the French Revolution—a day that is still celebrated in France as Bastille Day.