

**Word List**

Study the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

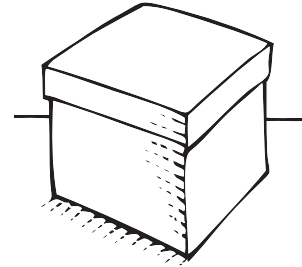
contain

v. To hold; to have within itself.

A drop of pond water **contains** thousands of tiny living creatures.

container *n.* A jar, box, or other object used for holding something.

Martina and Sam loved visiting the bead shop where small square **containers** held beads of many different colors, sizes, and shapes.

**digest**

v. To change food that has been eaten into simpler forms that the body can use.

Because Janine cannot **digest** milk, her parents give her soy drinks.

finicky

adj. Hard to please; fussy.

Adriana knew her parents would think she was being **finicky**, but she was just not hungry.

habit

n. 1. Something that a person does so often that it is done without thinking.

Katie's **habit** of saying "you know" after every sentence is annoying.

2. A special kind of clothing worn by certain groups.

A very important part of a riding **habit** is the hard helmet to protect the head in case of a fall.

hinge

n. A joint on a lid or door that allows it to swing open or shut.

Roger oiled the steel **hinges** on our front gate from time to time so they would not rust.

marsh

n. A low-lying area, often covered with tall grasses, where the ground is soft and wet.

The **marshes** near Long Island Sound provide a home for many snails, crabs, and minnows.

marshy *adj.* Soft and moist underfoot.

Reeds and cattails grow in the **marshy** area near the lake.

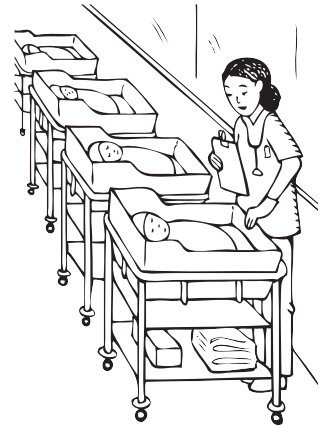
nursery

n. 1. A room or other place set aside for the use of babies and small children.

On our visit to the hospital, we stopped by the **nursery** to take a look at our new cousin, who was sleeping peacefully.

2. A place where plants are grown for sale.

On Saturday, Uncle Karl and Aunt Ruby went to the **nursery** to choose two locust trees to plant in front of their house.



rely

v. To count on; to look to for support.

When they asked Diane if they could **rely** on her to deliver the secret message to the right person, she said, "Of course!"

reliable *adj.* Trustworthy; not likely to fail.

Until he could repair the brakes, Dad said our car was not **reliable** enough for a long trip.

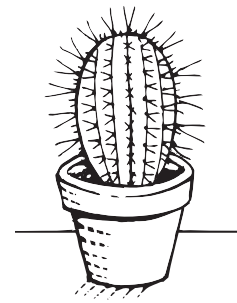
spine

n. 1. The backbone.

The **spine** protects the nerves that run from the brain to every part of the body.

2. A thin, sharp, stiff part that sticks out on certain plants and animals.

The one-inch long **spines** on a prickly pear cactus have been used to make toothpicks and needles.



thrive

v. To do well; to grow strong and healthy.

Lavender plants **thrive** in sunny spots without too much water.

8A Words and Their Meanings

Look at the group of words next to the number. Then circle the letter of the word that has the same meaning.

.....
1 to grow strong and healthy
(a) rely (b) digest (c) thrive (d) contain

.....
2 soft, wet, low-lying ground
(a) spine (b) marsh (c) nursery (d) hinge

.....
3 a place that grows and sells plants
(a) habit (b) spine (c) container (d) nursery

.....
4 the backbone
(a) spine (b) container (c) hinge (d) habit

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Look at the word next to the number. Then circle the letter of the group of words that has the same meaning.

5 finicky

(a) unwilling to spend money

(b) in poor health

(c) hard to explain

(d) hard to please

6 rely

(a) to stay away from

(b) to make a choice

(c) to count on

(d) to make possible

7 contain

(a) to hold

(b) to make up or invent

(c) to forget

(d) to pause

8 habit

(a) a joint that swings freely

(b) the clothes worn while riding

(c) a payment for work done

(d) the tools used for some activity

Improve each of the sentences by crossing out the words in bold and replacing them with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 8.

.....

- 1 Our new process for mixing any color of wall paint is faster than before and is **not likely to fail**.
- 2 The door does not close properly because one of the screws came out of the **joint that allows it to swing freely**.
- 3 The striped lionfish has **thin, sharp needles** sticking out to protect itself.
- 4 Chewing carefully helps you to **break down into simpler forms** the food you eat.
- 5 Shaylen is looking for a **jar or box that can hold things** to display the shells she collected on vacation.
- 6 One of Mikhail's **acts done over and over without thinking** is pulling on his ear when he is nervous.
- 7 When little Juliana saw her father come into the **special room set aside for young children**, she smiled happily and began toddling toward him.
- 8 This piece of land, which is **soft and wet to walk on**, provides a home for many different birds, insects, and plants.

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Circle the letter of the correct answer to each question.

.....

- 1 When do you begin to **digest** something?
(a) as you look at your plate (b) while you cook your food
(c) when you shop for food (d) after you swallow your food
-
- 2 How does a **finicky** eater act at dinner?
(a) eats whatever is served (b) asks for seconds
(c) refuses to eat certain foods (d) eats foods that are not favorites
-
- 3 Which of the following could become a **habit**?
(a) telling lies (b) joining a scout troop
(c) being born (d) becoming an adult
-
- 4 Where would you expect whales to **thrive**?
(a) in a pond (b) in a swimming pool
(c) in the ocean (d) in a ship channel
-
- 5 Which of the following has a **spine**?
(a) a worm (b) a monkey
(c) a butterfly (d) a cushion
-
- 6 What could you buy at a **nursery**?
(a) faucets (b) kittens
(c) nectar (d) bushes
-
- 7 Where would you find **hinges**?
(a) on chimneys (b) on carpets
(c) on doors (d) on tennis balls
-

Here are four suffixes: *-y*, *-less*, *-able*, *-ible*. If you need a reminder of what suffixes are, turn to Exercise 4D in Lesson 4.

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word. The words are all from this or an earlier lesson. Each word should have one of the four suffixes attached.

.....

- 1 If you can rely on someone, that person is _____.
- 2 Be careful when crossing a marsh because the ground there will be _____.
- 3 Infants can digest baby food because it is easily _____.
- 4 If someone running for mayor can get elected easily, that person is _____.
- 5 If there is no limit to something, then it is _____.

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Read the passage, then answer the questions that follow it.

Danger: Hungry Plants



Everyone knows that animals eat plants. There is nothing unusual about that. But have you heard about plants that eat animals? Let's discover where some of them live. Let's learn how they get their food.

Growing in the wild only along the coast of North and South Carolina is a plant with unusual eating **habits**. It is called the Venus flytrap. It grows well in the sunny weather that the Carolinas enjoy most of the year. The best places to see it are in **marshy** areas where the soil is poor. Poor soil does not matter to the Venus flytrap. It is different from most plants. The Venus flytrap does not **rely** on its roots to supply the food it needs.

The Venus flytrap grows to a height of about twelve inches and has little white flowers. Each of its leaves has a **hinge** running down the middle with a row of tiny **spines** along each side. When an insect lands on one of them, the leaf snaps shut, trapping the creature inside like a prisoner behind bars.

The center of each leaf is a rich red color. To a fly this looks like raw meat. That is exactly what flies like to feed on. The plant also has a sweet smell. This attracts other insects. The Venus flytrap is not **finicky**. It eats whatever it can catch. That includes different kinds of insects and ants. It even eats small frogs or lizards. Once attracted by the smell, an insect coming closer has no idea of the danger it is in. The insect sees what looks like fresh meat. It lands. Then the leaf closes on the creature. The insect can't break free. The more it struggles, the tighter it is held. The plant then starts to **digest** its meal. It does this in much the same way your stomach breaks down the food you eat. In a week to ten days, the plant has absorbed everything it needs. The leaf then opens and gets rid of what is left.

You do not have to go to North or South Carolina to see these interesting plants. You can grow them yourself at home. A **nursery** will sell you young plants. The Venus flytrap plant will **thrive** in a goldfish

bowl or large glass jar. Place a few inches of wet moss mixed with sand in the bottom of the bowl. Cover the roots of the plant with it. Keep the temperature around seventy-five degrees during the summer months. In winter, move the plant to a cooler spot, around forty degrees.

Make sure the sand mixture stays moist during the growing season. Water it a little each day instead of letting it get dry and then soaking it. Rainwater is better than water from the tap. To feed the Venus flytrap, drop a couple of live ants or small insects into the **container** from time to time. Keep it covered so that the insects cannot escape. Place it in a spot where it gets plenty of light. Then watch what happens.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of 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 Is the Venus flytrap **finicky** about where it grows in the wild? Explain.

- 2 Why might the Venus flytrap not **thrive** in a cold, cloudy climate?

- 3 Why is the Venus flytrap able to live in poor **marshy** soil?

- 4 Where else besides the Carolinas can you find Venus flytrap plants?

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5 Which part of the plant does the Venus flytrap depend on for its food?

6 What do a door and a Venus flytrap leaf have in common?

7 What are the **spines** of a Venus flytrap for?

8 In what way are humans and Venus flytrap plants alike?

9 What makes a suitable **container** for a Venus flytrap?

10 What should you do each day to care for your Venus flytrap?

FUN FACT

- Know your textbook! The part of a book where the pages are gathered, then glued or sewn together, made the first bookmakers think of the human backbone, or **spine**. That part of a book is called the spine to this day. It supports the book, just as our spines support our bodies.