

**Word List**

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

belated
bə lāt' əd*adj.* Done too late; having been delayed beyond the usual time.
Kofi's **belated** birthday card arrived one month after my birthday.**caliber**
kal' i bər*n.* 1. Degree of importance or excellence.
The college faculty is of the highest **caliber** and includes several Nobel Prize winners.
2. The diameter of a bullet or inside of a gun barrel.
A .45-**caliber** bullet is 45/100 of an inch in diameter.**chagrin**
shə grin'*n.* A feeling of embarrassment or annoyance caused by having failed or being disappointed.
To my **chagrin** I twisted my ankle as I attempted to make a jump while skating.
v. To cause to feel unease.
I was quite **chagrined** by my date's failure to meet me as planned.**contravene**
kən trə vən'*v.* To act against or be counter to.
The personnel director reprimanded the employee for **contravening** the company policy of no smoking.**default**
dē fōlt'*n.* 1. Failure to do what is required by duty or law.
When her opponent failed to appear, Nora won the chess game by **default**.
2. An automatic selection made according to a computer program when the user does not make a choice.
The **default** was to close the file before quitting.
v. To fail to pay what or when one should.
The bank will repossess the car if you **default** on your car loan.**doldrums**
dōl' drəmz*n. pl.* A condition of feeling sad, bored, or sluggish.
I was in the **doldrums** about my career until I received an exciting job offer in Costa Rica.**emblazon**
em blā' zən*v.* To inscribe or decorate conspicuously.
The team sponsor's name was **emblazoned** across the backs of the players' jerseys.**eminent**
em' ə nənt*adj.* Standing above others in worth, rank, or fame.
In the late 1700s, **eminent** inventor and engineer Eli Whitney constructed the cotton gin, an invention that changed the way cotton crops were harvested.**eminence** *n.*Octavio Paz's **eminence** as a writer of Latin American literature has led to his books' inclusion on many college reading lists.**expend**
ek spend'*v.* To use up; consume.
Sedentary office workers do not **expend** much physical energy on the job.

expire

ek spīr'

- v. 1. To come to an end.
Unless I renew it, my fishing license will **expire** next month.
2. To die.
The patient **expired** before he could be rushed to the hospital.

exponent

ek spō' nənt

- n. A person who explains, interprets, or works to make something popular.
Alvin Ailey, who founded the American Dance Theatre in 1958, was an **exponent** of a kind of modern dance that often incorporated African elements.

novice

nāv' is

- n. A person new at something; a beginner.
Although I am only a **novice** at downhill skiing, I find the sport exhilarating.

spry

sprī

- adj. Moving with quickness and ease; lively.
The lethargic cat lay curled up in front of the fire while the **spry** kitten leaped from the chair, to the table, to the top of the refrigerator.

tenuous

ten' yōō əs

- adj. 1. Lacking substance, flimsy.
His argument that demolishing the historic building would enhance the appearance of the street is indeed **tenuous**.
2. Not thick; slender.
The **tenuous** length of rope was rejected by the hikers in favor of a stronger piece.
3. Lacking density; thin.
At an altitude of 29,000 feet, the air is **tenuous**, making it necessary for mountain climbers to rely on supplementary oxygen.

truism

trōō' iz əm

- n. A truth that is so well known that it is almost unnecessary to say it.
"You only live once" is a **truism**.

16A**Understanding Meanings**

Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. A **tenuous** connection is one that is easily broken.

2. A **truism** is a false statement that appears to be true.

3. To **default** on something is to be falsely blamed for it.

4. To **contravene** a rule is to be governed by it.

5. A **belated** welcome is one that is given too long after a person arrives.

6. To **expend** precious resources is to deplete them.

7. To **expire** is to draw one's last breath.

8. An **eminent** poet is one who has recently died.

9. To **emblazon** a uniform is to add attention-getting details to it.

10. An **exponent** of universal health care is someone who favors it.

11. To be in the **doldrums** is to be in a state of apathetic inactivity.

12. A **spry** person is one who meddles in the affairs of others.

13. A **novice** is someone who is inexperienced.

14. **Chagrin** is fear of the unknown.

15. The **caliber** of a gun measures the inside diameter of the barrel.

16B

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.

1. **default**

- (a) I _____ her for not making a greater effort in her course work.
- (b) After _____ on so many financial obligations, he had to declare bankruptcy.
- (c) When Nuñez walked off the court in a huff, I won the match by _____.

2. **exponent**

- (a) The president says he is an _____ of free trade.
- (b) The writer of Mother Goose, a collection of verse for children, was an _____ of rhymed poetry.
- (c) I defeated my _____ in the chess tournament in fifteen moves.

3. **belated**

- (a) I offer you _____ congratulations on last month's promotion to chair of the department.
- (b) The _____ patrons had to stand since all the seats were taken.
- (c) We were _____ to hear that Trixie won "Best Cat in Show."

4. **doldrums**

- (a) The state has big plans to rescue its tourist industry from the _____.
- (b) I told him to snap out of the _____ and go out and do something he enjoys.
- (c) Few businesses survived the economic _____ of the 1930s.

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5. **eminent**

- (a) Her _____ reputation as a philanthropist made her a beloved figure in the city.
- (b) Dr. Benjamin Spock, who greatly influenced parents' raising of children after World War II, was an _____ pediatrician.
- (c) Dr. Linus Pauling, _____ chemist and winner of two Nobel Prizes, was also an opponent of nuclear weapons testing.

6. **contravene**

- (a) Does it _____ postal regulations to reuse uncanceled stamps?
- (b) I don't mean to _____ you, but I believe you are mistaken.
- (c) We were able to _____ the message before it reached its destination.

7. **emblazon**

- (a) "I never want to speak to you again!" she _____.
- (b) The French athletes' shirts were _____ with three large red, white, and blue stripes.
- (c) We _____ the words "Go for It" across the twelve-foot banner we hung in the gym.

8. **spry**

- (a) The young dancer's _____ movements endeared her to the audience.
- (b) I noticed the _____ glances they exchanged, and that made me suspicious.
- (c) The _____ heat of the Florida sun wilted the crops.

Fill in the missing word in each sentence. Then write a brief definition of the word. The number in parentheses shows the lesson in which the word appears.

1. The prefix *contra-* (against) and the Latin verb *venire* (to come) combine to form the word _____ (16).

Definition: _____

2. The prefix *ante-* (before) combines with the Latin *cedere* (to go) form the word _____ (15).

Definition: _____

3. The Latin *novus* (new) forms the word _____ (16).

Definition: _____

4. The prefix *bene-* (good) combines with the Latin verb *fiacre* (to make) to form the word _____ (10).

Definition: _____

5. The Latin verb *credere* (to believe) forms the word _____ (12).

Definition: _____

6. The prefix *magnus* (great) combines with the Latin *animus* (mind; spirit) to form the word _____ (10).

Definition: _____

7. The Latin verb *tangere* (to touch) forms the word _____ (11).

Definition: _____

8. The Latin *mater* (mother) forms the word _____ (14).

Definition: _____

9. The prefix *com-* (with) and the Latin *miser* (wretched) combine to form the word _____ (10).

Definition: _____

10. The Latin *greg* or *grex* (a flock) forms the word _____ (14).

Definition: _____

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

1. **default**

- (a) The accident couldn't have been prevented, so no one was blamed for it.
- (b) I just can't seem to do anything right around here.
- (c) A tiny flaw in one of the seams caused the metal casing to crack.

2. **expend**

- (a) Riding a bicycle uphill is much harder than going downhill.
- (b) A white dwarf is a star that has no more hydrogen or helium to burn.
- (c) When I take a deep breath, my chest measures forty inches.

3. **novice**

- (a) The first time I tried snowboarding, I felt very nervous.
- (b) Seeing the first crocus after a long winter always cheers me up.
- (c) The first car off the assembly line was a red two-door sports coupe.

4. **chagrin**

- (a) The invitation said formal dress, but Chang arrived in a T-shirt and shorts.
- (b) After boasting that she had an "eagle eye," Joanna missed the target every time.
- (c) There was an awkward silence in the audience as the comedian walked off the stage.

5. **doldrums**

- (a) Those bright specks settling on the bottom of the stream are flecks of gold.
- (b) Business was slack early in the year, and it failed to pick up later.
- (c) Some critics assert that no important poets have emerged in the past twenty years.

6. **caliber**

- (a) How does a .38 Luger differ from a Colt .45 revolver?
- (b) The college accepts only the top five percent of those who apply.
- (c) The measuring instruments are reset each morning to make sure they all agree.

7. **tenuous**

- (a) As long as there was one chance in a million, they would continue to hope for his recovery.
- (b) The new material is said to be ten times stronger than steel.
- (c) His self-confidence, never strong to begin with, has been shattered by his latest test scores.

8. **expire**

- (a) You cannot use this passport after midnight on December 31 of this year.
- (b) Gloria's eyes closed, as though in sleep, for the last time.
- (c) The car stalled so she started the engine again.

9. **spry**

- (a) I suffered minor bruises when I slipped on a sheet of ice.
- (b) The bird was released to the wild after being nursed back to health.
- (c) You can never be sure when she’s joking and when she’s being serious.

10. **truism**

- (a) I believe her when she says that she was home by ten.
- (b) “What goes up must come down.”
- (c) John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826.

16E

Passage

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Marathon

According to legend, the race called the marathon commemorates the feat of a Greek soldier who in 490 B.C.E. ran a distance of 22 miles and 1,470 yards from Marathon to Athens to announce his countrymen’s victory over the Persians. Legend also has it that the runner **expired** from exhaustion after achieving his goal. Evidence supporting this story is **tenuous**, however. The first reference to it appeared six hundred years after the event!

Today, in road races throughout the world, the marathon is a popular sporting event. Runners of varying speeds and ability levels enter to test their endurance, break a record, or simply say they had the experience of completing a marathon. A customary part of the modern Olympic games since 1896, the marathon has had a distance of 26 miles and 386 yards since the 1908 Olympics. In that year the race was held in London. It began at the gates of Windsor Castle and ended at the Olympic stadium’s royal box, where the king and queen sat.

The 1908 Olympic marathon was memorable for another reason. An American won the gold medal by **default**. The first runner to cross the finish line, an Italian, was **chagrined** to discover that he had been disqualified. British officials had helped him over the last few yards, **contravening** the rule that the runner must complete the full course unaided. After that, an American didn’t win again for sixty-four years.

At the 1972 Olympics, Frank Shorter’s victory brought the United States’ losing streak out of the **doldrums** and significantly increased the popularity of the marathon in the United States. Women’s official entry into the sport was **belated**; it was 1972 when they were allowed to enter the Boston Marathon. It wasn’t until 1984 that they were allowed to compete in the Olympic event, where they set impressive records of speed. **Eminent** international runners include Grete Waitz of Norway, the predominant female distance runner of the 1970s and 1980s and nine-time winner of the New York City Marathon, and three-time consecutive Boston Marathon winner Uta Pippig of Germany.

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People of all ages and levels of ability participate in marathons. Those of the highest **caliber** can achieve finishing times of around two and a quarter hours, whereas the goal of a **novice** is often simply to finish. Athletes who are physically challenged are particular **exponents** of the wheelchair competition. Older runners also participate. In the 1991 Boston Marathon, Johnny Kelley, a **spry** 84-year-old, finished in 5 hours, 40 minutes, and 54 seconds. His official number, sixty, **emblazoned** on his shirt, honored the fact that Kelley was competing for the sixtieth time. In 2004, Kelley—then retired—was honored as the race’s Grand Marshall. He died later that year. He was 97.

A marathon tests not only powers of physical endurance but also courage and determination. After about twenty miles, long distance runners have **expended** fluids needed by their bodies to supply the muscles with energy. Runners call this “hitting the wall.” At this point it is will power more than physical resources that keeps one going to the end of the race. It is a **truism** among runners that anyone can run for twenty miles. But it takes incredible strength to “break the pain barrier.”

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

1. How can spectators identify runners in a marathon?

2. How do runners express an obvious truth about those who finish marathons?

3. What was unusual about the American winner of the 1908 Olympic marathon?

4. Why couldn’t a woman enter the Boston Marathon in 1970?

5. How did Frank Shorter’s victory in the 1972 Olympics affect the popularity of the marathon in the United States?

6. What **eminent** people viewed the 1908 Olympic games?

7. What word would you use to describe older marathon runners?

8. Why wouldn't a **novice** runner in a marathon be considered high-**caliber**?

9. What positive claims might a running enthusiast make about distance running?

10. What caused the Greek runner in 490 B.C.E. to **expire**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

• **Doldrums** is a plural noun for which there is no singular. It can take either the singular or plural form of the verb. Originally, a *doldrum* was a dull, apathetic person; the word later lost this meaning and acquired its plural form to describe a depressed or lethargic state of mind. Similarly, light, calm winds occurring north of the equator between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are called *doldrums*. A person in the *doldrums* probably doesn't have much motivation, just as a ship sailing on the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean doesn't receive much wind from the *doldrums*.

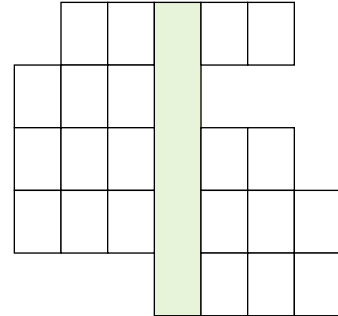
• Don't confuse **eminent** with *imminent*, which means "about to happen." (An important discovery may be *imminent* from such an *eminent* scientist.)

• The Latin *novus* means "new" and forms the root of a number of English words besides **novice**. A *novel* approach to a problem is one that is new; an *innovation* is a new device or new way of doing something; and to *renovate* something is to make it like new again.

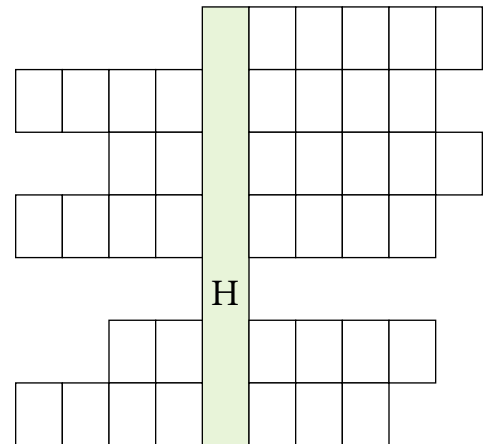
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Hidden Message In the boxes provided, write the words from Lessons 13 through 16 that are missing in each of the sentences. The number following each sentence gives the word list from which the missing word is taken. When the exercise is finished, the shaded boxes should spell out an observation made by Gloria Steinem, twentieth-century American author, journalist, and advocate of women’s rights.

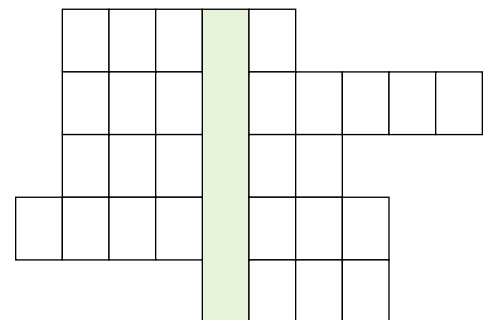
1. These recipes will appeal to even the most _____ appetites. (15)
2. Boko the clown was famous for his _____ routines. (14)
3. When does your driver’s license _____? (16)
4. The patient consulted the nation’s most _____ doctors. (16)
5. A kilt is the traditional Scottish _____. (14)



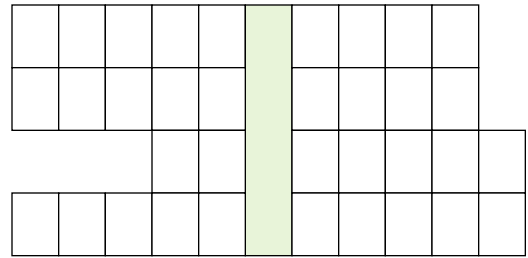
6. I love the cabin’s _____ setting by the lake. (13)
7. He tried to _____ the speaker by making faces at her. (13)
8. The boulder gathered _____ as it rolled downhill. (15)
9. Do not _____ the efforts of those trying to help. (13)
10. I am willing to _____ assistance to them if they ask. (13)
11. A(n) _____ incident marred our visit to Philadelphia. (13)



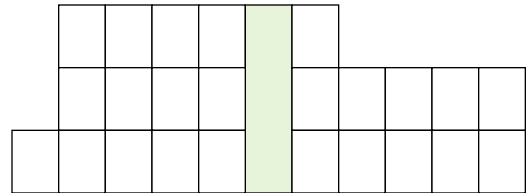
12. They were able to _____ a vast amount of data. (14)
13. Spike has the _____ to become a great pitcher. (15)
14. You _____ energy whenever you do work. (16)
15. The disease could _____ an entire population. (14)
16. A(n) _____ eighty-year-old got up and danced a jig. (16)



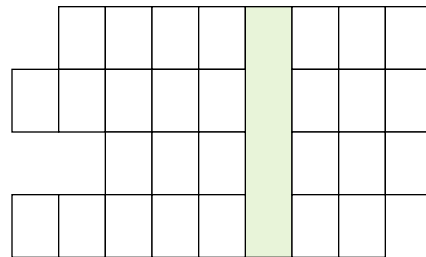
- 17. The tube was twisted into a(n) _____ shape. (15)
- 18. The Colonial era is _____ to the Federal era. (15)
- 19. One feels a(n) _____ revulsion to acts of cruelty. (15)
- 20. It's useless to _____ with some criminals. (13)



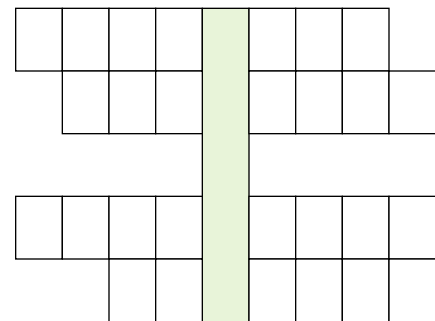
- 21. It's a(n) _____ that "haste makes waste." (16)
- 22. People who are _____ enjoy the company of others. (14)
- 23. The dangers we faced filled me with _____. (13)



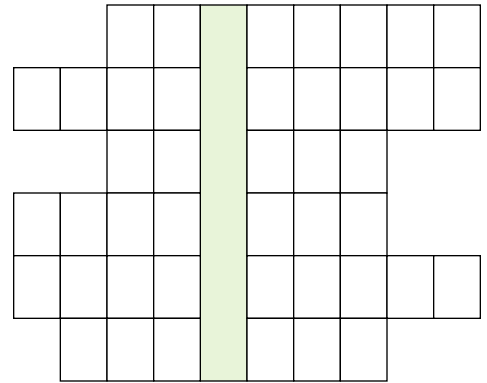
- 24. If we have _____, then we have free will. (15)
- 25. A(n) _____ gets pleasure from being hurt. (15)
- 26. I tried not to _____ on the agreement. (16)
- 27. My _____ aunt is my mother's sister. (14)



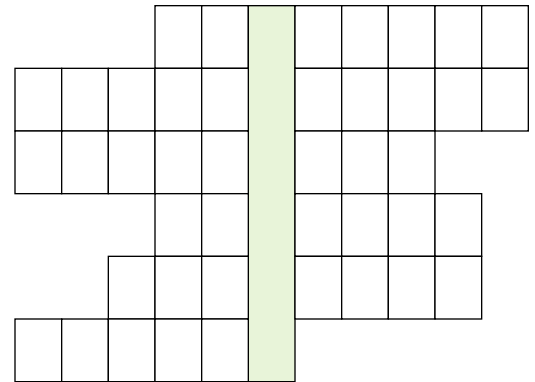
- 28. Dr. Selkirk is a(n) _____ of a low-fat diet. (16)
- 29. Her _____ rise to fame astonished her friends. (13)
- 30. I'm not _____ enough to be a juggler. (14)
- 31. To keep the plant healthy, you must _____ it. (14)



32. Certain flaws are _____ in the design. (14)
33. His _____ behavior soon led to a quarrel. (14)
34. She was a(n) _____ at golf, but played well. (16)
35. Joe's _____ reply to our question was "Yup." (13)
36. Try to _____ the last syllable of the word. (15)
37. To my _____, my joke failed to get a laugh. (16)



38. He was a good musician but no _____. (13)
39. Fuel injection has made carburetors _____. (15)
40. Proper training will produce a(n) _____ dog. (14)
41. The larger the _____, the bigger the bullet. (16)
42. They _____ a different design on each T-shirt. (16)
43. The play was a(n) _____ of a Greek tragedy. (14)



44. Better a(n) _____ thank-you note than none at all. (16)
45. There is a mile-wide _____ on the surface of Mars. (13)
46. Despite _____ evidence, the case was soon solved. (16)
47. Toy sales are usually in the _____ after the winter holidays. (16)

