Sample Lessons

Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction  |  Grades K–12  |  RTI

Lesson 10

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

Word List

Adj. Most miserable; wretched.

1. The stray dog lived in abject conditions until the neighbor children began to care for her.

V.

1. To plead in favor of; to defend. This organization advocates the release of all people imprisoned for their beliefs.

n.

(advocate verb) One who argues for or defends a person, group, or idea. Your teacher is an advocate for preschool education for all children.

Advocate to your partner a cause you feel strongly about.

Adj.

1. Very brutal, wicked, or cruel. At bullying is atrocious and that the school staff is committed to eliminating it.

2. Appallingly bad; outrageous. The owners of the kennel were prosecuted after reporters revealed that the animals lived under atrocious conditions.

Talk to your partner about an atrocity you have heard about and how it could have been avoided.

V.

1. To serve as a memorial to; to remember in a solemn manner. The tablet on the front porch commemorates the importance of the family's role in the Underground Railroad.

The tablet on the front porch commemorates the importance of the family's role in the Underground Railroad.

n.

A form of a language spoken in a geographical region that has its own grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. A Spaniard speaking Spanish in Cuba might not completely understand a dialect spoken in Madrid.

Discuss with your partner what a dialect is and how it is used.

Adj.

1. Having a strong desire for, to the point of greed. Avid for the attention of their babysitter, the children shouted and tumbled about on the floor.

2. Eager; enthusiastic. Kiara is an avid skateboarder who spends each weekend at the park.

Tell your partner about a hobby or sport you are avid about.

Adj.

1. Abrupt in manner or speech; gruff. The coach's brusque speech at halftime showed how unhappy he was with the players.

brusqueness

n.

The quality or state of being brusque. With a brusqueness unlike her, Melanie ended the phone conversation.

Adj.

1. Short and to the point. "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service" is a concise way of explaining a dress code.

Make a concise statement to your partner about your plans tonight.

V.

1. To cause a lowering of self-esteem; to lower in reputation or character. Don't demean yourself by trying to act like those bullies.

demeaning

adj.

Degrading. June felt that being scolded in front of her friends was demeaning.

Adj.

1. Deserving contempt or scorn. Stealing from the class treasury was a despicable thing to do.

V.

1. To try to equal; to imitate. Musicians around the world have tried to emulate Louis Armstrong's soulful trumpet playing.

Talk to your partner about someone you try to emulate in an activity or in life.
**Lesson 1**

**Word List**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>avid</strong></td>
<td>adj. 1. Having a strong desire for, to the point of greed.</td>
<td><strong>Avid</strong> for the attention of their babysitter, the children shouted and tumbled about on the floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Eager; enthusiastic.</td>
<td><strong>Kiara</strong> is an <strong>avid</strong> skateboarder who spends each weekend at the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tell your partner about a hobby or sport you are <strong>avid</strong> about.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>brusque</strong></td>
<td>adj. Abrupt in manner or speech; gruff.</td>
<td>The coach’s <strong>brusque</strong> speech at halftime showed how unhappy he was with the players.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>brusqueness</strong> n. The quality or state of being brusque.</td>
<td>With a <strong>brusqueness</strong> unlike her, <strong>Melanie</strong> ended the phone conversation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>concise</strong></td>
<td>adj. Short and to the point.</td>
<td>“No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service” is a <strong>concise</strong> way of explaining a dress code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Make a concise statement to your partner about your plans tonight.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>demean</strong></td>
<td>v. To cause a lowering of self-esteem; to lower in reputation or character.</td>
<td>Don’t <strong>demean</strong> yourself by trying to act like those bullies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>demeaning</strong> adj. Degrading.</td>
<td>June felt that being scolded in front of her friends was <strong>demeaning</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>despicable</strong></td>
<td>adj. Deserving contempt or scorn.</td>
<td>Stealing from the class treasury was a <strong>despicable</strong> thing to do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>emulate</strong></td>
<td>v. To try to equal; to imitate.</td>
<td>Musicians around the world have tried to <strong>emulate</strong> Louis Armstrong’s soulful trumpet playing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Talk to your partner about someone you try to emulate in an activity or in life.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **evoke**
| ---
| \[\text{ē vōk}´\]
| v. 1. To call forth; to produce.
| The mayor’s appeal for volunteers to clean up the park **evoked** a huge response from people in my neighborhood.
| 2. To bring to mind, often by suggestion.
| The tinkling notes from the music box **evoked** for me the carefree joys of childhood.
| **evocative** **adj.** (ē vāk´ə tiv) Creating something again, especially through the imagination.
| The costumes and music of the film were **evocative** of Paris in the 1920s.
| **Share with your partner a song that evokes good memories for you.**

| **excruciating**
| ---
| eks krō´shē āt in\[\]
| **adj.** Very painful.
| The ointment soothed the **excruciating** burn on Dalip’s arm.

| **inaugurate**
| ---
| in ô´gyәr āt
| v. 1. To install in office with a formal ceremony.
| Presidents of the United States are **inaugurated** in January following the November election.
| 2. To begin officially or mark the opening of.
| On Tuesday, Mayor Ovalles **inaugurated** a new program to help the homeless.
| **inauguration** **n.** The act of installing in office.
| Governor Maitland was at her desk within hours of her **inauguration**.

| **pervade**
| ---
| par vād´
| v. To spread throughout.
| Laughter **pervades** the house whenever Aunt Sara visits us.
| **pervasive** **adj.** Spreading throughout.
| Long after the fire was extinguished, the **pervasive** odor of smoke remained in every room.
| **Discuss with your partner some pervasive odors you enjoy, such as from a holiday or from cooking a favorite food.**

| **proprietor**
| ---
| pra pri´ a tar
| **n.** An owner of a store or other business.
| The **proprietors** of the downtown shops planned a sidewalk sale for the first weekend in June.

| **pseudonym**
| ---
| soō´da nim
| **n.** A fictitious name used by an author; a pen name.
| Female British authors of the nineteenth century often had to use a male **pseudonym** in order to get their books published.
| **Tell your partner what your pseudonym would be if you decided to write a book under a different name.**
### rebuff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>v.</strong></th>
<th>1. To reject bluntly.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our teacher <strong>rebuffed</strong> all our requests to change the deadline for the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To drive back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Although the men in the Alamo were determined to <strong>rebuff</strong> Santa Anna’s forces, in the end they were defeated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>n.</strong></td>
<td>1. A blunt rejection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caroline’s offer to Frida to patch up their quarrel met with a <strong>rebuff</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. An abrupt setback in progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After a storm delayed their start, the climbers experienced another <strong>rebuff</strong> when a rock slide shut down one of the trails.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Talk to your partner about a time a friend rebuffed your plans.**

### resilient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>adj.</strong></th>
<th>1. Capable of recovering quickly from misfortune.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After she lost her job, my mom was so <strong>resilient</strong>, she went out and found another one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Returning quickly to an original shape or condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A wool sweater is more <strong>resilient</strong> after washing than a cotton one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>n.</strong></td>
<td>1. The ability to recover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stefano showed great <strong>resilience</strong> after he caught the flu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The ability to spring back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis balls lose <strong>resilience</strong> after three or four sets of vigorous play.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### turbulent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>adj.</strong></th>
<th>1. Chaotic; unruly.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My brother and I tried our best to stay calm during the <strong>turbulent</strong> period of our parents’ divorce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Stormy; tempestuous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Such a <strong>turbulent</strong> sea prevented all boats from leaving the harbor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>n.</strong></td>
<td>1. Great disturbance or agitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The <strong>turbulence</strong> of the 1960s included peace marches, civil rights protests, and assassinations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Rapid changes in wind speed and direction in the atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The “Fasten Your Seatbelts” sign flashed on when the plane encountered <strong>turbulence</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding Meanings
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) To inaugurate someone is to (c) To rebuff someone is to
(b) try to win that person’s favor. (d) install that person in office.
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. (a) be unreliable or untrustworthy. (c) To be avid is to
(b) have a strong desire for (d) To be resilient is to
something.
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. (a) is to summon it from memory. (c) To pervade something
(b) To emulate something (d) is to spread throughout it.
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. (a) one that is ignored. (c) A despicable comment is
(b) one that deserves contempt. (d) A brusque comment is
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. (a) returns to its original shape. (c) Something that is evocative
(b) Something that is resilient (d) is easily damaged.
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. (a) one that is favorable. (c) A brusque remark is
(b) one that is abrupt in manner. (d) A concise remark is
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

7. (a) A proprietor is (c) a story made up on the spur of
(b) a fictitious name. (d) A pseudonym is
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
8. (a) try to imitate that person. (b) try to influence that person. (c) To emulate someone is to (d) To demean someone is to

9. (a) An evocative poem (b) A concise poem (c) is one that is difficult to understand. (d) has the ability to bring back feelings.

10. (a) To demean someone is to (b) To rebuff someone is to (c) reject that person. (d) praise that person.

Just the Right Word

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

1. The swelling in Denise's ankle was so painful that she could hardly stand it.

2. From Ms. Hernandez's abrupt manner, the students understood immediately that something was wrong.

3. The 1930s was a very disturbed and agitated decade in European history.

4. When the lawyer attempted to harm the reputation of the witness by calling her a liar, the judge intervened.

5. Who is the person with the legal right to the ownership of the furniture business?

6. Without any explanation, Emi bluntly rejected Brandon's offer to help change the tire.

7. Uncle Joshua used to be an eager and enthusiastic fan of the Hartford Whalers until the team moved to North Carolina and changed its name to the Carolina Hurricanes.
8. My family needs to be able to recover quickly from misfortune to survive in these difficult times.

9. The installation of the first president, George Washington, took place on April 30, 1789.

10. Ernest Hemingway wrote in a style that was short and to the point.

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

1. Which of the following might employ a pseudonym?
   (a) a writer  (b) a Supreme Court judge  (c) a president of a country  (d) a small business

2. Which of the following can have a proprietor?
   (a) a corner store  (b) a small child  (c) a small business  (d) a government agency

3. Which of the following has resilience?
   (a) a person  (b) a doormat  (c) a lawn  (d) a question

4. Which of the following can be pervasive?
   (a) time  (b) silence  (c) fear  (d) a smell

5. Which of the following can be inaugurated?
   (a) a president  (b) a delivery service  (c) a bad habit  (d) a promise

6. Which of the following can be evoked?
   (a) a loose tooth  (b) a grudging response  (c) a happy memory  (d) a broken ski pole

7. Which of the following might suffer a rebuff?
   (a) an announcement  (b) an attack  (c) a proposal  (d) a friendly gesture
8. In which of the following might there be turbulence?
   (a) a relationship  (c) the ocean
   (b) the air  (d) a lawn

Word Study: Similar Meanings
Choose from the two words provided and use each word just once when completing each sentence. One space should be left blank.

**brusque / abrupt**
1. I was greeted with a(n) ________________ “no” when I asked if I could help.
2. A(n) ________________ person seems always to be in a hurry.
3. The bus came to a(n) ________________ stop when a dog ran in front of it.

**rebuff / reject**
4. If you like, you can ________________ another card from the top of the deck.
5. The soldiers were able to ________________ the enemy’s charges.
6. The agency will ________________ applications that are not properly signed and dated.

**emulate / imitate**
7. To walk on the moon is a feat that no one is likely to ________________ anytime soon.
8. To ________________ someone else’s answers during a test can get a student in serious trouble.
9. To ________________ the sound of bird calls is quite an accomplishment.

**demeaning / despicable**
10. There is nothing ________________ about asking for help if you need it.
11. There was a ________________ expression on his face as he warned us of the danger.
12. It is ________________ to buy a puppy and mistreat it.
**turbulent / stormy**

13. Everyone screamed as the ________________ rapids almost overturned the raft.

14. The principal’s voice grew ________________ as he spoke of his concern for the school’s future.

15. The forecast of ________________ weather caused the cancellation of all ferry crossings.

---

**Vocabulary in Context**

Read the passage.

**A Poet of the People**

Maya Angelou was honored by William Jefferson Clinton when he invited her to read a poem she had written to celebrate his **inauguration** as the forty-second president of the United States. This was a fitting tribute to the woman whose early life had seemed so empty of promise when she was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, sixty-four years before. She sums up that life **concisely** in these lines from one of her poems: “. . . birthing is hard / and dying is mean / and living’s a trial in between.”

When she was still a small child, her parents divorced; she and her older brother Bailey were raised by their grandmother, Annie Henderson, affectionately known as Momma. Mrs. Henderson was the **proprietor** of the only general store in Stamps, Arkansas, owned by an African American. In her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Angelou **evokes** Momma’s powerful presence as she lovingly describes the way her grandmother coped with the bigotry and racial hatred that was widespread in the country in the 1930s. It was this **resilience** that most impressed Angelou and which she herself tried to **emulate** throughout her life.

One example of such bigotry involved a visit to the dentist. Angelou was suffering from an **excruciating** toothache. Momma had no choice but to take her granddaughter to the town’s only dentist, who was white. When she asked him to treat the little girl’s toothache, he **rebuffed** her, using extremely **demeaning** language. He told her that he would rather put his hand in a dog’s mouth than treat a black person. Momma reminded him that she had helped him in the past by making him interest-free loans; now she was asking a favor
in return. But he **brusquely** asserted that his debts had been paid. He ordered her to leave. After taking her grandchild out of the office, Momma returned and stood her ground. She demanded that the dentist pay her a fair rate of interest on the loans she had made him. Finally, he handed over ten dollars, a large sum in those days. Only then did she depart, her dignity intact. She traveled over thirty miles with her granddaughter to Texarkana, where the nearest African-American dentist practiced.

When Angelou was eight years old, she and her brother went to live with their mother in St. Louis. There her mother’s boyfriend abused her. He threatened to harm Bailey if she told anyone. When Angelou became ill, her mother discovered the **despicable** abuse. The boyfriend was brought to trial and convicted. But the shock of the experience left Angelou unable to speak for several years.

In spite of her troubled and **turbulent** childhood, a spirit of optimism **pervades** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. In it, Angelou pays tribute to those who helped and encouraged her. Among them was a neighbor named Bertha Flowers. She gave Angelou books and introduced her to the pleasures of reading poetry, drama, and great novels. As a result of Flowers’s influence, Angelou became an **avid** reader. This led later to her dream of becoming a writer. Four more volumes of autobiography and many collections of poetry followed *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. All appeared under her **pseudonym**, Maya Angelou, a name she began using in the 1950s.

It was a long and difficult road that she had traveled, but it led to the presidential platform where she read her poem “On the Pulse of Morning” to an audience of millions on that cold January day. Angelou had triumphed over many difficulties, strengthened by the deep faith expressed in these lines from the poem, “Lift up your hearts / Each new hour holds new chances / For a new beginning.” She died peacefully in her sleep in 2014. A year later the U.S. Postal Service issued a special Maya Angelou stamp to honor her memory.

**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 is it inaccurate to say that Momma was Mrs. Henderson’s **pseudonym**?

   ""
2. Why would you not use the word **concise** to describe the title of Angelou’s first book?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________


___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. Why did Mrs. Henderson have to be knowledgeable about business?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. Why was Momma desperate to get her granddaughter to a dentist?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. How did the dentist let Momma know that she was not welcome?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

7. Why is Angelou’s mother’s boyfriend someone one would not **emulate**?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

8. In what way did the dentist show **despicable** behavior?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

10. What is one way that Angelou showed **resilience** in her life?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

11. What was **turbulent** about Angelou’s life immediately after her parents’ divorce?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
12. What details in the passage suggest that Bertha Flowers’s treatment of Angelou was not **brusque**?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

13. How is *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* a positive book?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

14. How do you know that Angelou did not **rebuff** President Clinton’s request for a poem?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

15. What is the meaning of **avid** as it is used in the passage?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

**Fun & Fascinating FACTS**

- The original meaning of the verb *demean*, “to conduct oneself,” suggested neither good nor bad behavior. (Jane’s young cousins *demeaned* themselves in a proper manner during their stay with her.) Even though this meaning continues, a second meaning, “to act in a way that lowers one’s reputation or character,” has largely replaced it. (You *demean* yourself by asking favors of someone who you have treated so badly.)

- **Pseudonym**, a false name used by writers and others in place of their real name, is formed from the Greek roots *pseudi*, “false,” and *onuma*, “name.”

The original meaning of the verb survives in *demeanor*, the noun form, which means “the manner in which one behaves or conducts oneself.” (No one could tell from Alonso’s *demeanor* that he was very angry.)
**pseudonym**

*noun*  A name someone uses that is not their real name.

*The author uses a *pseudonym* for her books so she can keep her life private.*

**Academic Context**

Mark Twain is the *pseudonym* of the famous American author Samuel Clemens.

**Word Parts**

The Greek prefix *pseudo* means “false.”

The Greek word root *onyma* means “name.”

So, the meaning of *pseudonym* is “false name.”

---

**Discussion & Writing Prompt**

Why do you think someone would want to use a *pseudonym*?

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>abject</strong></td>
<td><strong>adj.</strong> 1. Most miserable; wretched. The stray dog lived in <em>abject</em> conditions until the neighbor children began to care for her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **advocate** | **v.** To plead in favor of; to defend. This organization *advocates* the release of all people imprisoned for their beliefs.  
**n.** (ad´ va kät) One who argues for or defends a person, group, or idea. The senator has been a lifelong *advocate* for preschool education for all children. |
| **atrocity** | **n.** An act of great cruelty and wickedness. It is important to talk about and try to prevent the *atrocities* we see every day on the news.  
**atroicious** **adj.** (ә´ träs´ ә tēs) 1. Very brutal, wicked, or cruel. The principal says that bullying is *atroicious* and that the school staff is committed to eliminating it.  
2. Appallingly bad; outrageous. The owners of the kennel were prosecuted after reporters revealed that the animals lived under *atroicious* conditions. |
| **commemorate** | **v.** To serve as a memorial to; to remember in a solemn manner. The tablet on the front of the house *commemorates* its importance as a station on the Underground Railroad. |
| **dialect** | **n.** A form of a language spoken in a certain geographical region that has its own grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. A Spanish-speaking person from Madrid might not completely understand a *dialect* spoken in Cuba. |
| **dire** | **adj.** Having terrible consequences; urgent or desperate. The murder of an Austrian crown prince in 1914 had extremely *dire* consequences. |

*Advocate to your partner a cause you feel strongly about.*

*Talk to your partner about an atrocity you have heard about and how it could have been avoided.*

*Discuss with your partner what dire consequences there might be if you disobeyed your parents.*
**elite**

*n.* A group that enjoys superior status to others.

People in the social elite of New York City use private cars so they do not have to ride the subways.

*adj.* Considered superior to others.

The eight Ivy League institutions are considered elite compared to other universities, though the quality of instruction is often the same.

**enhance**

*v.* To make greater or better.

The large window in our new kitchen enhances the room’s light, airy feeling.

*Talk to your partner about improvements that could enhance your learning experience at school, such as more study halls or better computers.*

**flagrant**

*adj.* Clearly offensive or bad; conspicuously acting against what is right.

Leaving school grounds early is a flagrant violation of school rules.

**languish**

*v.* To lose hope, strength, or vitality because of neglect or bad conditions.

We languished on the porch as the rain soaked the picnic blanket and all the food we had laid out.

**mute**

*v.* To soften or tone down the sound of.

The state legislature has agreed to build walls at the airport to mute the roar of the jet engines for nearby residents.

*adj.* Not speaking or not able to speak; silent.

The little boy remained mute when his new preschool teacher asked his name.

*Tell your partner the appropriate times and places to mute your voice.*

**raze**

*v.* To level to the ground; to destroy completely.

Just as the row of seventeenth-century buildings was about to be razed, the preservation society requested a delay.

**reprisal**

*n.* A retaliation for an injury.

We decided there would be no reprisals for the high school students who painted graffiti on the walls.

*Chat with partner about whether there is ever a situation when reprisals are appropriate.*

**turmoil**

*n.* A state of confusion or agitation; tumult.

With flood waters rising and an order to evacuate our home in an hour, my family was in a turmoil, trying to decide what to do first.
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.

1. (a) I **wreaked** silently in and out to control my breathing. ___
   (b) The Black Death **wreaked** devastation across Europe. ___
   (c) A country’s leader can **wreak** havoc by making a false move. ___
   (d) The imminent arrival of the hurricane **wreaked** our plans for the weekend. ___

2. (a) The Dalai Lama has been a lifelong **advocate** for world peace. ___
   (b) The class **advocates** that they should watch a movie instead of take a test. ___
   (c) **Advocates** grow best in tropical and subtropical climates. ___
   (d) Parents need to be **advocates** for their children in the healthcare system. ___

3. (a) Leaving the gate unlocked was a **flagrant** breach of the rules. ___
   (b) The most **flagrant** crimes often get the most news coverage. ___
   (c) The **flagrant** honeysuckle is Ty’s favorite flower. ___
   (d) Johanna loves the **flagrant** smell of freshly cut grass. ___

4. (a) Siya’s grade was **razed** from a C to a B. ___
   (b) The old library is being **razed** to make way for a new one. ___
   (c) The floor needs to be **razed** six inches. ___
   (d) Much of the building was **razed** to the ground by the fire. ___

5. (a) The bear sighting has the neighborhood in **turmoil**. ___
   (b) He threw the ball against the **turmoil** and watched it roll away. ___
   (c) When anarchy was unleashed, the whole country was in **turmoil**. ___
   (d) Wrap the fish in **turmoil** before you grill it. ___

---

**wreak**

v. 1. To bring about or inflict.
   The tornado **wreaked** destruction along the path it followed through the center of town.

2. To express or vent.
   Sahil **wreaked** his anger by pounding on the hood of the car.

---

Discuss with your partner a time when bad weather **wreaked** damage upon a local place.

---

10A
6. (a) Self-driving cars will enhance road safety by removing human error. ____
   (b) The hikers were enhanced temporarily under the shelter during the storm. ____
   (c) This new product is guaranteed to enhance your hair’s health. ____
   (d) Having a positive attitude enhances your chances of success. ____

7. (a) My application for the summer job languished at the bottom of the pile. ____
   (b) Hope languished before the rescue team showed up. ____
   (c) The city languished millions of dollars on a new visitors’ center. ____
   (d) The team languished at the bottom of the league for most of the season. ____

8. (a) I commemorated Angelina for winning the spelling bee. ____
   (b) We commemorate the birth of our nation every Fourth of July. ____
   (c) The school commemorates Martin Luther King Day by giving everyone a day off. ____
   (d) Kimiko commemorated the poem and recited it perfectly at the concert. ____

9. (a) Annie was mute with awe when she saw a whale for the first time. ____
   (b) You can respond to my question or just remain mute. ____
   (c) I muted the television to listen to my brother’s story. ____
   (d) Mute the tree before it falls on the house. ____

10. (a) An elite team was sent to the spelling bee and won. ____
    (b) Only the elite were sent invitations to the ball in the New York City penthouse. ____
    (c) Should I dye my hair elite or dark? ____
    (d) Light the fire before it gets too cold and elite. ____
Making Connections
Circle the letter next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Which word or words go with worthy of respect?
   (a) illustrious  (b) notable  (c) elite  (d) dialect

2. Which word or words go with conflict?
   (a) turbulence  (b) enhance  (c) turmoil  (d) tumult

3. Which word or words go with improve?
   (a) wreak  (b) enhance  (c) raze  (d) elevate

4. Which word or words go with get rid of?
   (a) commemorate  (b) enhance  (c) annihilate  (d) raze

5. Which word or words go with speech?
   (a) reprisal  (b) dialect  (c) mute  (d) turmoil

6. Which word or words go with retaliate?
   (a) advocate  (b) reprisal  (c) banter  (d) languish

7. Which word or words go with terrible?
   (a) quaint  (b) elite  (c) abhorrent  (d) dire

8. Which word or words go with language?
   (a) advocate  (b) dialect  (c) translate  (d) reprisal

9. Which word or words go with shocking?
   (a) monstrous  (b) copious  (c) atrocious  (d) elite

10. Which word or words go with misery?
    (a) torment  (b) method  (c) enhance  (d) anguish
Determining Meanings

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

1. **Reprisals**
   (a) by the military took various forms.
   (b) fell thick and fast on the field, icy cold and blazing white.
   (c) were sent into the yard to play with each other.
   (d) were distributed to the guilty students.

2. A **flagrant**
   (a) smell of smoke greeted Caleb as he stepped outside the cabin.
   (b) breach of the law will be punished.
   (c) smile from his mom let him know everything was all right.
   (d) display of bad manners will get you in trouble.

3. A **dire**
   (a) amount of money was raised to support the local hospital.
   (b) smell told us the meal was ready.
   (c) warning requested that everyone lock their doors.
   (d) forecast says a hurricane is on its way.

4. The **dialect**
   (a) of the people in northern Spain is spoken by over a million people.
   (b) between the two debaters lightened when they began to banter.
   (c) should be turned until the arrow points to the zero.
   (d) known as Creole takes dozens of different forms.

5. The **commemoration**
   (a) of lines can be difficult for the lead role in a play.
   (b) will be on Veterans Day at the statehouse.
   (c) of the women who fought for equal rights is on Saturday.
   (d) between the dolphins was amazing to hear.

6. The **atrocities**
   (a) were committed by both sides in the war.
   (b) ordered by the president will always be remembered with regret.
   (c) of the future will bring us technology we can’t even imagine.
   (d) of the game were explained to both sides before kickoff.
7. An **advocate**
   (a) for the homeless suggested renovating abandoned houses.
   (b) can be grown in any large pot.
   (c) for the students was chosen to represent them.
   (d) on the playground is the best in town.

8. **Abject**
   (a) fear during the movie caused me to cover my eyes.
   (b) sadness is unavoidable at some point in life.
   (c) happiness filled his heart as he stepped outside.
   (d) misery was felt by the family members at the funeral.

1. An example of a **dire** warning about the weather is:  
   ____________________________________________________________.

2. I would like to be an **advocate** for  
   ____________________________________________________________.

3. An **elite** group is one that  
   ____________________________________________________________.

4. I would feel **abject** terror if I saw  
   ____________________________________________________________.

5. I can **enhance** my health by  
   ____________________________________________________________.

6. A **flagrant** action might be  
   ____________________________________________________________.

7. If you **languish** over something bad, that means you  
   ____________________________________________________________.

8. Something that might lead to **turmoil** in school is  
   ____________________________________________________________.

9. A **reprisal** is  
   ____________________________________________________________.

10. The opposite of **atrocious** is  
    ____________________________________________________________.
The four-hundredth anniversary of Columbus’s famous voyage was commemorated in 1892 with much fanfare throughout North and South America. The five-hundredth-anniversary celebrations, in 1992, were muted by comparison. Instead of celebrating, many people drew attention to how thoroughly the European settlers had wreaked devastation upon the original inhabitants of the Americas. In that year, too, the Nobel Committee awarded its Peace Prize to Rigoberta Menchu, a thirty-three-year-old native woman from Guatemala. She was honored for her “increasingly prominent part as an advocate of native rights.”

Until Menchu was sixteen, she spoke only Quiche, one of some twenty dialects of the Guatemalan native peoples. The Quiche are the descendants of the once-proud Mayas. Mayan civilization flourished in Central America until about 900. Menchu came to prominence in 1983 with the publication in Spanish of her autobiography I, Rigoberta Menchu. The book gives an account of the atrocities committed by government forces from the 1960s up to the 1980s against the peasant population of Guatemala.

While the country’s elite lived in heavily guarded, luxurious homes in Guatemala City, the native peoples lived in abject poverty. Natives made up more than half of the population. Their little plots of land, which provided only a meager living, could be seized without warning by wealthy landowners. To protest was to risk severe punishment by the army. An entire village could be razed and its inhabitants slaughtered. During the thirty-year conflict, an estimated one hundred thousand unarmed native peasants were killed; tens of thousands fled the turmoil in the countryside for the safety of neighboring Mexico. There they languished for many years in refugee camps. Others escaped to the mountains to wage a decades-long civil war against the army.

Menchu’s own family experienced terrible losses for resisting the army’s rigid control of the country. Her father was repeatedly beaten and jailed for organizing nonviolent protests. In 1980, he was part of a group that occupied the Spanish embassy in Guatemala City. The goal was to draw attention to the government’s flagrant abuses of human rights. During this occupation, the building was set on fire, killing those trapped inside. Later, Menchu’s sixteen-year-old brother, along with twenty others, were abducted and killed by the
military. A year later her mother was abducted by army officers and killed. Her body was left unburied as a **dire** warning to other “troublemakers.”

Two of Menchu’s sisters joined the armed resistance groups fighting within the country. She herself escaped to Mexico in 1981. From there she worked to draw the world’s attention to the plight of her people. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize **enhanced** enormously her ability to tell her story, both within Guatemala and in the world at large. She used the $1.2 million prize money to further her campaign for peace in Guatemala and the rights of native peoples throughout the hemisphere. There was one further benefit of winning the prize: As a world-famous figure, she was free to visit her native land without fear of **reprisal** by government forces.

The thirty years of civil war ended in 1996 with the signing of peace accords between the rebels and the government. However, progress toward the goals outlined in the accords was painfully slow; a great deal of mistrust still existed between the two sides. In February 2004, President Oscar Berger appointed what he called “a goodwill ambassador” to speed up the process. The person he named to the post was Rigoberta Menchu.

She has tried to further her aims by being politically active. In 2011 she ran in the Guatemalan presidential election and won over 150,000 votes, finishing sixth out of ten candidates. Her work continues through the Rigoberta Menchu Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to seek world peace by pursuing justice and equality, especially for native peoples. Among its many specific goals are the improvement of education and access to information technology within native communities.

---

**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. How do you know that Menchu’s father did not **advocate** violence?

2. How might language have affected the ability of the native peoples of Guatemala to form a united opposition to the army?
3. What reprisal did government forces make for the occupation of the Spanish embassy?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. What atrocities was Menchu’s father subjected to?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. What were the dire consequences for Menchu’s family after the Spanish embassy burned?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

6. What event will be commemorated in 2092?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

7. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Rigoberta Menchu as mute about the suffering of the Guatemalan people?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

8. Do you think Menchu’s family was part of the country’s elite? Explain.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

10. Give one example from the passage of a flagrant abuse of human rights by the Guatemalan military.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

11. What does the passage say tens of thousands of Guatemalans did during the thirty-year conflict?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
12. How do you know that the lives of the Guatemalans who fled to Mexico did not improve much?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

13. How do you think Rigoberta Menchu’s autobiography enhanced people’s knowledge of what was happening in Guatemala?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

15. During the war, why were many Guatemalan peasants left homeless?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

- The Latin prefix ab-, “from” or “away,” combines with the root from the Latin verb jacere, “to throw,” to form the adjective abject. Its original meaning is “cast out” or “rejected.” It now means “wretched” or “in a low state.”
- The Latin flagrare means “to burn” and forms the root of the adjective flagrant. The original meaning of this word was “flaming” or “blazing,” which changed over time to “outrageous” or “conspicuously bad.” A blazing fire is certainly conspicuous, and perhaps it is this connection that led to the change in meaning.
- One of the meanings of raise is “to build.” It is curious then that raze, a word with the same pronunciation, has just the opposite meaning, “to destroy completely.” (While it can take a team of workers several days to raise a barn, a tornado can raze it in a matter of minutes.)
**advocate**

*noun* A person who publicly supports someone or something.

*verb* To support or argue for someone or something.

The *advocates* for civil rights marched in the parade down Main Street.

**Academic Context**
A parent is often the strongest *advocate* for a child's learning.

**Context Clues**
These sentences give clues to the meaning of *advocate*.

*Dr. Hughes advocated* a dairy-free diet to help ease the child's allergic reactions.

*Librarians are advocates* for teaching young children to love books.

**Discussion & Writing Prompt**
Some people are *advocates* for abandoned animals and others for cancer research. What do you feel strongly enough about that you would publicly *advocate* for it? Why?

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.

   Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

2. Write 2–4 sentences.

   Be ready to share what you have written.