SAMPLE LESSONS
Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction | Grades K–12 | RTI

BOOK 9: Lessons 1 & 10

Word List

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

Word List

Lesson 1

1. To express deep regret or sorrow over.
   - Many football fans bewailed the replacement of real grass by AstroTurf when the new stadium was built.

2. Without resources or possessions, especially the necessities of life.
   - Winter is especially painful for destitute people in the cities of the Northeast.

3. Lacking; devoid of.
   - Staring at the blank sheet of paper on which I was supposed to write a poem, I found myself destitute of ideas.

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

5. To take away, especially from the value, beauty, or importance of.
   - The family's loud music detracts from the peace and quiet of the beach.

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

7. To set free from slavery; to liberate.
   - Some teenagers feel emancipated when they get a driver's license.

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

9. To praise highly.
   - The scout leader extolled the virtues of truth and honor.

10. Excessively showy; unrestrained.
    - My conservative aunt considered her husband's brightly colored, boldly patterned necktie too flamboyant for the governor's reception.

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

Lesson 10

1. To cut off a body part, especially by surgery.
   - The doctor had to amputate the mountain climber's frostbitten toes.

2. A natural talent.
   - My sister Yolanda has an aptitude for math that has always made me envious.

3. One who benefits or gains an advantage from something.
   - Impoverished families will be the beneficiaries of these low-rent apartments.

4. A welcome gift or blessing.
   - After a long dry spell, the rain was a boon to the farmers.

5. To feel or express sorrow or compassion for; to sympathize.
   - If I'm upset about something, it helps me feel better if someone commiserates with me.

6. To collect or gather; to acquire or obtain.
   - The school-committee candidate garnered support by going from door to door throughout the district to meet people.

7. Without payment; free of charge.
   - Admission to the museum is gratis on Mondays.

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

9. To make helpless or incapable.
   - Keiko was incapacitated for six weeks while her leg was in a cast.

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

11. The beginning of an action or process.
    - I continue to extol the math club because it has been a success from the day of its inception.

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

**bewail**

*bē wāl’*

v. To express deep regret or sorrow over.

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

**destitute**

*des’tə tōt*

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

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

2. Lacking; devoid of.

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

*destitution*  

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

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

**detract**

*dē trakt’*

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

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

*detractor*  

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

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

**emancipate**

*ē man’ sə pāt*

v. To set free from slavery; to liberate.

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

*emancipation*  

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

**extol**

*ek stōl’*

v. To praise highly.

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

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

**flamboyant**

*flam boi’ ant*

adj. Excessively showy; unrestrained.

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

*flamboyance* or *flamboyancy*  

With an air of *flamboyance*, the actor flung out her arm and pointed to the door.
| **impetus** | $\text{im}'\text{pa} \text{tas}$ | n. 1. A driving force; anything that causes an action. Her hope of winning an athletic scholarship provided the impetus for years of grueling training on the swim team.  
2. Increased activity resulting from a driving force. Kala’s low grades gave impetus to her increased focus on studying. |
| **impetus** | \text{im}'\text{pa} \text{tas} | \text{adj.} | \text{incapable of being overcome or defeated.} During my senior year, passing Physics seemed an insuperable obstacle to graduation. |
| **insuperable** | in sō′pər bəl | adj. | Not continuous; happening at intervals. Showers were intermittent throughout the day, although the forecast had promised sunshine. |
| **intermittent** | in tar mit′nt | adj. | Not continuous; happening at intervals. Showers were intermittent throughout the day, although the forecast had promised sunshine. |
| **maxim** | maks′im | n. | A general truth or rule of conduct; a short saying. Remember the maxim “Actions speak louder than words” when you promise not to be late all the time. |
| **obligatory** | ə blig′ə tər ē | adj. | Required or demanded. Physical education is obligatory unless you have a medical excuse for skipping gym class. |
| **plumb** | plum | v. | 1. To measure the depth of water. The lake was too deep for us to plumb.  
2. To reach the deepest part of. The bathyscaphe is a vessel designed to plumb the oceans of the world.  
3. To understand by examining closely; to solve. Her latest book of poems is a valiant attempt to plumb the human soul. |
| **plumb** | plum | adj. | Straight up and down; vertical. The bricklayer keeps checking to make sure that the wall being built is plumb. |
| **vagabond** | vag′a band | n. | A person who wanders from place to place. He spent a few years as a vagabond before settling in a city and getting a job in a factory. |
| **vagabond** | vag′a band | adj. | The vagabond life of traveling musicians suited the members of the band. |
| **visage** | viz′ij | n. | A face, especially one that expresses feelings. The smiling visage of a young girl looked out from the portrait. |
| **visage** | viz′ij | \text{v.} | Stare at your partner with a frightening visage. |
wheedle
hwēd’əl
v. 1. To coax by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.
He tried to wheedle his father into letting him go to a movie on a school night.
2. To gain by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.
Merritt wheedled information about the test from her friend who had taken it earlier in the day.

1A

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

1. To emancipate someone is to release that person.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. An impetus sets something into action.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. **obligatory**
   (a) It is not ____________ to have someone accompany you to the doctor’s appointment.
   (b) It is ____________ to carry your driver’s license when driving.
   (c) Stopping at a red light is ____________ in all fifty states.
8. **emancipate**
   (a) The recipe instructed cooks to _____________ the cream before adding it to the melted chocolate.
   (b) I managed to _____________ a hundred dollars from my uncle.
   (c) The candidate was unable to _____________ more than fifty votes.

### Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Antonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>bewail admit pretend celebrate</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>precise secret wealthy destitute</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>estimate detract obtain enhance</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>enslave provide assist emancipate</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>extol wheedle praise pause</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>towering active shy flamboyant</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>coax reward wheedle recover</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>impetus face visage payment</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>heavy deep plumb vertical</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>smart strict voluntary obligatory</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Images of Words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. obligatory
(a) If you want to be on the committee, be at the next meeting.
(b) Guests at White House state dinners must wear formal attire.
(c) He finally had to admit that we were hopelessly lost.
9. **bewail**
   (a) Democracy doesn’t work well with such a poor voter turnout.
   (b) From our cabin, we could hear the eerie howling of the wolves.
   (c) We’d all be better off if television had never been invented.

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

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**Vocabulary in Context**

Read the passage.

**Faces in the Mountain**

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

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

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

The question of which national figures to honor caused much debate. Sioux Chief Red Cloud, who had fought against white encroachment on Native American lands, was one of the names proposed. Another was Susan B. Anthony, who had **bewailed** nineteenth-century women’s lack of the right to vote in political elections, and led the struggle to **emancipate** them from this deprivation. The final decision, however, was left to Borglum. Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln were obvious choices, but Borglum had a personal reason for his fourth selection, a man of...
enormous energy who extolled physical fitness and vigorous activity. In his own life, Borglum strove to emulate his hero, so Theodore Roosevelt became the fourth figure honored at Mount Rushmore.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. List two maxims that Borglum did not believe in.
5. Why was Susan B. Anthony considered a candidate for one of the places of honor on Mount Rushmore?

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________

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**Fun & Fascinating FACTS**

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

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

noun  A face, especially one expressing feelings.

Word Parts
The Latin root *videre* (*vid/vis*) means “face,” “to see,” or “to look at.”
*Vision* is another word that has this root.
What other words do you know that have the root *vis*?

Discussion & Writing Prompt
Describe two situations in which a person’s *visage* may not accurately reflect their emotions.

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.
2. Write 3–5 sentences.

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

Be ready to share what you have written.
Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

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<th><strong>amputate</strong></th>
<th>v. To cut off a body part, especially by surgery.</th>
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<th><strong>beneficiary</strong></th>
<th>n. One who benefits or gains an advantage from something.</th>
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<td>ben´afish´ērē</td>
<td>Impoverished families will be the beneficiaries of these low-rent apartments.</td>
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Discuss with your partner who the beneficiary is in the relationship between a person and a pet.

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<th><strong>boon</strong></th>
<th>n. A welcome gift or blessing.</th>
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<td>bóon</td>
<td>After a long dry spell, the rain was a boon to the farmers.</td>
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<th><strong>commiserate</strong></th>
<th>v. To feel or express sorrow or compassion for; to sympathize.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>kә miz´ərat</td>
<td>If I’m upset about something, it helps me feel better if someone commiserates with me.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>garner</strong></th>
<th>v. To collect or gather; to acquire or obtain.</th>
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<td>gär´nar</td>
<td>The school-committee candidate garnered support by going from door to door throughout the district to meet people.</td>
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<th><strong>gratis</strong></th>
<th>adj. Without payment; free of charge.</th>
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<tr>
<td>grat´as</td>
<td>Admission to the museum is gratis on Mondays.</td>
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adv. The food packages students put together before Thanksgiving were offered gratis to destitute families in the community.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>incapacitate</strong></th>
<th>v. To make helpless or incapable.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>in´ko pas´ațāt´</td>
<td>Keiko was incapacitated for six weeks while her leg was in a cast.</td>
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<th><strong>incapacity</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>Because of the incapacity that resulted from her car accident, Melda missed eleven days of work.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

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<th><strong>inception</strong></th>
<th>n. The beginning of an action or process.</th>
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<td>in sep´shan</td>
<td>I continue to extol the math club because it has been a success from the day of its inception.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>magnanimous</strong></td>
<td>adj. Generous, unselfish, or forgiving. Nelson Mandela was too <strong>magnanimous</strong> to seek revenge on his persecutors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>magnanimity</strong></td>
<td><em>n.</em> Quality of being above meanness or spite; generosity of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly. Although he was found to have been jailed unjustly, he displayed great <strong>magnanimity</strong> on his release.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **myriad** | *n.* A very large number. A **myriad** of mosquitoes swarmed around us as we traversed the swampy area. |
| **Myriad** | *adj.* Very many. **Myriad** beautiful tropical fish swam in the warm waters of the gulf. |

| **practicable** | *adj.* 1. Capable of being done; feasible. Making a community garden in that vacant lot is a **practicable** plan, but you’ll have to get permission from the city first.  
2. Usable. Motor boats are not **practicable** in the waters of the Florida Everglades. |
| **Chat with your partner about whether it is practicable to schedule classes so that all students have Fridays off.** |

| **remunerate** | *v.* To pay or reward. Were you **remunerated** for the work you did for the school’s used-book sale, or was it voluntary? |
| **remuneration** | *n.* Acting as a public defender for clients who cannot afford a lawyer does not offer great financial **remuneration**. |
| **Tell your partner about a chore or task you performed for no remuneration.** |

| **solicit** | *v.* To ask for in a formal way. Ms. Vargas came to our apartment to **solicit** contributions to her husband’s campaign. |
| **solicitation** | *n.* Although I considered their cause a good one, I could not afford to respond to their repeated **solicitations** for money. |
| **Pretend you are soliciting your partner for the use of his or her pencil.** |

| **trite** | *adj.* Used so much that it is no longer fresh or new. “Fresh as a daisy” is a **trite** expression, but I sometimes find myself using it anyway. |
1. We all felt that Andrew had behaved with **magnanimity**.
   (a) We all felt that Andrew had behaved with **generosity of spirit**.
   (b) We all felt that Andrew had behaved in a mean and spiteful way.

2. The document names my mother as the **beneficiary**.
   (a) The document names my mother as the **heir**.
   (b) The document names my mother as the **donor**.

3. A majority felt that the project would be a **boon** for the town.
   (a) A majority felt that the project would be a **disaster** for the town.
   (b) A majority felt that the project would be a **benefit** for the town.

4. There was a **myriad** of daisies in the meadow.
   (a) There were a **great number** of daisies in the meadow.
   (b) There were **hardly any** daisies in the meadow.

5. Anika’s **aptitude** for making up stories was well known.
   (a) Anika’s **reason** for making up stories was well known.
   (b) Anika’s **natural gift** for making up stories was well known.

6. Entry to the zoo is **gratis** for children under age three.
   (a) Entry to the zoo is **restricted** for children under age three.
   (b) Entry to the zoo is **free** for children under age three.

7. I make an effort to avoid **trite** expressions.
   (a) I make an effort to avoid **overused** expressions.
   (b) I make an effort to avoid **bigoted** expressions.

8. The volunteers were **remunerated** for their efforts.
   (a) The volunteers were **thanked** for their efforts.
   (b) The volunteers were **paid** for their efforts.

9. Julio missed a week of school when he was **incapacitated**.
   (a) Julio missed a week of school when he was **unwell**.
   (b) Julio missed a week of school when he was **on vacation**.

10. Janeka is good at **commiserating** with people.
    (a) Janeka is good at **having a good time** with people.
    (b) Janeka is good at **sympathizing** with people.

11. We helped **solicit** votes for Mayor Eduardo.
    (a) We helped **count** votes for Mayor Eduardo.
    (b) We helped **encourage** votes for Mayor Eduardo.
12. The project was deemed **practicable** by the committee.
   (a) The project was deemed **too expensive** by the committee.
   (b) The project was deemed **feasible** by the committee.

13. The moment the sun set marked the **inception** of the fireworks.
   (a) The moment the sun set marked the **beginning** of the fireworks.
   (b) The moment the sun set marked the **end** of the fireworks.

   (a) Squirrels **collect** nuts.
   (b) Squirrels **eat** nuts.

15. The doctor hopes she will not have to **amputate** the finger.
   (a) The doctor hopes she will not have to **locate** the finger.
   (b) The doctor hopes she will not have to **cut off** the finger.

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**Understanding Word Relationships**

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

1. Which word or words are related to *ask*?
   (a) garner
   (b) beseech
   (c) entreat
   (d) solicit

2. Which word or words are related to *money*?
   (a) beneficiary
   (b) benign
   (c) bequeath
   (d) remunerate

3. Which word or words are related to *cut off*?
   (a) depreciate
   (b) amputate
   (c) commiserate
   (d) sever

4. Which word or words are related to *generous*?
   (a) lavish
   (b) magnanimous
   (c) trite
   (d) philanthropic
5. Which word or words are related to *obtain*?
   (a) repose
   (b) garner
   (c) bustle
   (d) acquire

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

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

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

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

10. Which word or words are related to *doable*?
    (a) magnanimous
    (b) practicable
    (c) feasible
    (d) nondescript
Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>fateful</td>
<td>selfish</td>
<td>uneasy</td>
<td>magnanimous</td>
<td>S  A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>boon</td>
<td>blessing</td>
<td>dogma</td>
<td>aptitude</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>garner</td>
<td>repose</td>
<td>enable</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>inception</td>
<td>quandary</td>
<td>lapse</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>flamboyant</td>
<td>nondescript</td>
<td>brief</td>
<td>erudite</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>solicit</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>affront</td>
<td>pariah</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>tacit</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>trite</td>
<td>raucous</td>
<td>sumptuous</td>
<td>Spartan</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>copy</td>
<td>myriad</td>
<td>facsimile</td>
<td>beneficiary</td>
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Understanding Contextual Meanings
Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write a new sentence using the word correctly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Words to Remember:**
- amputate
- aptitude
- beneficiary
- boon
- commiserate
- garner
- gratis
- incapacitate
- inception
- magnanimous
- myriad
- practicable
- remunerate
- solicit
- trite
Dogs with a Cause

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

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

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

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

Since its inception, Paws with a Cause has grown rapidly. Of special interest is its Foster Puppies Program. Volunteers take care of puppies in their homes from the time they are weaned until they are a year old and mature enough to begin serious training with professional dog handlers. Among the beneficiaries of this program are
not only those who are eventually teamed up with dogs, but also those who cared for
the puppies during this critical period, many of whom are children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. What did Bonita Bergin discover about Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers?
8. Why might people have commiserated with Debbie Walrod right after her illness?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS


- Two words easily confused because their meanings overlap are practical and practicable. That which is practicable is capable of being done; that which is practical is useful and sensible. Converting the nation’s railroad tracks into bicycle paths is practicable (that is, it can be done); however, because the country needs railroads more than bicycle paths, it is not practical. Putting chains on automobile tires in wintry weather is both practicable (that is, it can be done) and practical (because it is a sensible thing to do to prevent accidents).
**beneficiary**

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

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

**Academic Context**

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

**Word Family**

benefactor (noun)
benefit (noun)
beneficial (adjective)
beneficially (adverb)

**Discussion & Writing Prompt**

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

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.

2. Write 3–5 sentences.

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

Be ready to share what you have written.