

Word List

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



abet
ə bet

- v. To encourage or assist in some activity, especially a questionable one.
Randy **abetted** his friend in stealing pumpkins by helping him lug them home.
.....
Discuss with your partner how to respond to friends who ask you to abet them in vandalizing your school.



agile
əj' əl



- adj. 1. Able to move quickly and easily; nimble.
Alexandra's **agile** steps followed Wilfredo's as the band played a tango.
2. Able to think quickly.
In the final round of the chess tournament, Gary's **agile** mind enabled him to think five moves ahead.
agility n. (ə jil' ə tē) Quickness of mind or body.
Our karate instructor carefully developed our **agility** through repeated practice of the basic movements.
.....
Chat with your partner about how a swimming coach might help swimmers develop agility in the water.

allot
ə llot

- v. To assign or distribute as a portion or share.
Ms. Kaplan usually **allotted** fifteen minutes at the beginning of each French class for conversation practice.

balmy
bām' ē

- adj. Soothing, mild.
Instead of the **balmy** spring weather we were expecting, the skies turned gray, and a light snow fell.

congregate
kən' grə gāt

- v. To come together in a group; to assemble.
The principal instructed us to **congregate** in the parking lot while the firefighters checked the building.

divert
də vurt

- v. 1. To turn aside.
By sandbagging the shore, we can **divert** some of the floodwaters.
2. To entertain or amuse.
A juggler **diverted** the audience during the intermission.
diversion n. 1. The act of turning from a course or concern.
Seeing a beautiful rainbow was a **diversion** from the long, boring drive.
2. Something that amuses or entertains.
Collecting shells of so many colors and sizes was a **diversion** our whole family enjoyed on our visit to the beach.
.....
Tell your partner something that might divert you on your way home from school.



humdrum
hum' drum

- adj. Lacking excitement; boring or monotonous.
Bagging groceries is a **humdrum** job, but the flexible hours allow me to finish all my homework.

influx
in' fluks

- n. A flowing or pouring in; arrival in massive numbers.
Local restaurant owners are hiring extra help because of the expected **influx** of visitors during the holidays.

intricate
in' tri ket

- adj. Complicated; having many related details or parts.
Chen builds **intricate** sculptures using metal pieces she finds at junkyards.
.....
Work with your partner to make something simple, like tying your shoe, seem intricate.



memento
mə men' tə

- n. Something kept as a reminder of a past event; a souvenir.
Madeline kept the sand dollar as a **memento** of her day at the New Jersey shore.

query
kwir' ē

- n. A question.
Raise your hand if you have a **query** to ask the teacher.
v. To ask or ask about.
Mustafa **queried** his great-aunt about what life was like when she was young.
.....
Query your partner about what he or she has eaten today.



sporadic
spa rad' ik

- adj. Happening occasionally; not regularly.
Last summer, between **sporadic** acting jobs, we worked as lifeguards.

staple
stā pel

- n. 1. A basic food that is used frequently and in large amounts.
Rice and beans are **staples** in many households.
2. A U-shaped fastener with sharp ends.
Remove the **staples** before you put those papers through the copy machine.
v. To attach with staples.
After the students finished writing their reports, they **stapled** the pages together.
adj. Most important; principal.
Wheat and corn are **staple** crops of Canada.
.....
List for your partner the five pieces of clothing that are staple garments in your closet.



tumult *n.* Noisy excitement; an uproar or disturbance.
 Entering the house through the chimney, the squirrel caused a **tumult** until my sister finally caught it and released it in the backyard.

tumultuous *adj.* Marked by uproar or excitement, turbulent.
 A **tumultuous** crowd waited at the airport to greet the triumphant Mexican soccer team.



Tell your partner about the last tumultuous event you attended.

unseemly *adj.* Not suitable; inappropriate or improper.
 The two fathers had an **unseemly** argument at the monthly PTA meeting.

9A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 9. Then write the sentence.

- (a) to distribute them. (c) To divert funds is
 (b) to account fully for them. (d) To allot funds is

- (a) A staple is (c) A memento is
 (b) a basic food. (d) a short note.

- (a) Tumult is (c) quickness of mind or body.
 (b) Agility is (d) a feeling of unreasonable panic.

- (a) An influx is something (c) kept as a reminder of a past event.
 (b) A memento is something (d) that is inappropriate and out of place.

- (a) A humdrum task (c) is one that is quickly completed.
 (b) An intricate task (d) is one that lacks interest or excitement.

abert
 agile
 allot
 balmy
 congregate
 divert
 humdrum
 influx
 intricate
 memento
 query
 sporadic
 staple
 tumult
 unseemly

9B

- (a) question closely. (c) entertain or amuse.
 (b) To congregate is to (d) To divert is to

- (a) A query is (c) movement into a place.
 (b) An influx is (d) a turning point.

- (a) An unseemly proposal is one (c) that is concisely written.
 (b) that is very detailed. (d) An intricate proposal is one

- (a) be suspicious of that person. (c) To abet someone is to
 (b) give support to that person. (d) To query someone is to

- (a) is one filled with excitement. (c) A balmy day
 (b) is one that is boring. (d) A tumultuous day

Just the Right Word

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

- Rain was **coming down from time to time** all through the day we had chosen for painting the house.
- Beautiful beaches and impressive rain forests have helped make tourism a **very important** industry in Hawaii.
- Lulu's attention to her book was **turned away** when her baby brother started crying.
- Anyone wishing to be a gymnast must be **able to move quickly and easily**.



5. The campers were **assigned** as their **portion** one dish of ice cream at the end-of-summer banquet.
6. Mom made us spit out our gum before the memorial service because chewing it, she said, would be most **unsuitable** for **such an occasion**.
7. The **warm and gentle** breezes from the ocean kept us cool all summer.
8. Kito's friends **asked a number of questions** of him about his new pet snake.
9. The surprise visit from the basketball star caused **great excitement** and **confusion** in the school.
10. Last year scientists warned of a possible **continuous pouring** in of killer bees from South to North America, but it never happened.

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 be considered a **diversion**?
 (a) doing homework (c) watching television
 (b) getting stuck in traffic (d) playing softball
2. Which of the following could be **intricate**?
 (c) the plot of a movie
 (d) a grimace
 (b) a plan
3. Which of the following are **staples**?
 (c) ice cubes
 (a) beans (d) cookies
 (b) rice
4. Which of the following needs to be **agile**?
 (c) an artist
 (d) a hockey goalie
 (a) an Olympic skater
 (b) a downhill skier
5. Which of the following is a **query**?
 (c) "Let's go."
 (a) "Feeling better?"
 (d) "How do you open this?"
 (b) "What's the matter?"



6. Which of the following can **congregate**?
 (a) people (c) plants
 (b) animals (d) birds
7. Which of the following could be **humdrum**?
 (a) a job (c) a calamity
 (b) a movie (d) a mutiny
8. Which of the following might be **tumultuous**?
 (a) a sleeping infant (c) a parade
 (b) an election (d) a fireplace

Word Study: Similar Meanings

Choose from the two words provided and use each word only once when completing each sentence. One space should be left blank.

Intricate / complicated

1. The wallpaper has a(n) _____ pattern of intertwined branches and birds.
2. The math equations were more _____ than he expected.
3. The number 18,074,030 is an extremely _____ one.

Sporadic / occasional

4. The _____ weather patterns make them hard to predict.
5. Even though Malcolm is trying to cut down on caffeine, he enjoys a(n) _____ cup of tea.

6. Emily's visits were _____ and then stopped altogether.

Fitful / irregular

7. The doctor has concerns about the patient's _____ heartbeat.
8. After a(n) _____ sleep, Leonard had a hard time getting up.
9. The waves grew more _____ as the hurricane neared the coast.

Because life changes little from day to day, visits from ships passing by on their way from the Panama Canal to New Zealand are eagerly awaited. The island's steep cliffs and lack of harbors make it impossible for ships to come to land; they must anchor about a mile offshore. When a ship arrives, islanders congregate at the landing in Adamstown, the island's only town. There they watch the launching of the forty-foot longboat that goes out to meet the ship to replenish supplies and to sell mementos. During rough weather, when the longboat is pitching wildly, those on board have a formidable task getting from the boat to the deck of the ship by rope ladder. Only the most agile attempt it.

The crews on these passing ships are eager to buy the carvings and booklets made by the islanders. Intricately carved replicas of the *Bounty* are popular items. They can sell for several hundred dollars or more, depending on the skill of the carver. The ships' visits are sporadic; weeks or even months go by without one. For this reason, the Fictians take advantage of these visits to trade fish, fruits, and vegetables for canned goods and staples, such as flour and sugar, that they cannot provide for themselves. Everything obtained from passing ships is allocated equally among the island's families. In this way, no one lacks the necessities.

This tropical paradise, however, is not for everyone. Young people often feel frustrated by the lack of opportunity. Many of them wish to exchange what they regard as the humdrum existence on the island for what they believe will be more exciting lives in the outside world. Not only do they find limitations in jobs unappealing, but they also complain that life on Fictian offers few diversions. Fictian Island once had very strict moral codes, which prohibited displays of affection, such as holding hands in public, and dancing, which was regarded as unseemly. While the rules aren't as strict these days, many young people leave the island, though some return later, unable to cope with the tumult of the modern world.

Fictian, a volcanic speck of rock less than two square miles in area and inhabited by only nine families, has a fascination for the outside world out of all proportion to its size. It has been the subject of no fewer than 2,500 books and articles. One reason, of course, is obvious—its dramatic past, a past that began on an April morning in 1789 when Captain Bligh was rudely awakened to discover that Fletcher Christian, abetted by mutinous crew members, had seized control of the *Bounty*.

replica / copy
12. A _____ of twelve inches would be a foot.
11. The bank needs a _____ of your father's signature for its records.

12. The Mayflower docked in Plymouth, Massachusetts, is a _____ of the Pilgrims' ship.

assimilate / absorb
13. A sponge can _____ six times its weight in water.

14. Katy seemed unable to _____ the meaning of the word no.

15. The brain has to _____ sensory information from many different sources.



Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.

The Children of the Bounty

Many people dream of living on a remote tropical island where there are no cars and little crime. For the people of Fictian Island, this dream is their reality. Until 1789, Fictian was uninhabited. In that year, Fletcher Christian arrived at and settled on this tiny island in the South Pacific. With him were eight other mutineers from the *Bounty* and eighteen Tahitians. By the late 1800s the island's population had grown to over two hundred. Today, the number has dwindled to fewer than fifty. However, the island's governing council is not greatly concerned about the declining population. It receives thousands of queries from people all over the world who would like to live there. Nevertheless, it rarely issues the official entry document called "License to Land and Reside." Fictians have no wish to be swamped by an influx of new residents.

Life on Fictian is engaging. The inhabitants enjoy balmy weather all year round, and the island has plenty of water. Sweet potatoes, melons, bananas, and coffee are among the crops grown in its fertile soil. The older inhabitants spend most of their time fishing, growing vegetables, and making wooden carvings and woven baskets.

9E

about	_____
apile	_____
allur	_____
balmy	_____
congregate	_____
dwelt	_____
humdrum	_____
influx	_____
intricate	_____
memento	_____
query	_____
sporadic	_____
stable	_____
tumult	_____
unseemly	_____

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 are there no heating bills on Pitcairn?

2. Why hasn't there been an **influx** of tourists to Pitcairn?

3. What is the meaning of **staples** as it is used in the passage?

4. Why do you suppose the ships' visits are **sporadic**?

5. Name two activities that Pitcairn teenagers might find **humdrum**.

6. In what ways might teenagers from Pitcairn Island find life in a U. S. city **tumultuous**?

7. According to the passage, what is the content of a lot of the mail sent to Pitcairn?

8. How do the Islanders make sure no one lacks necessary food?

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

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10. Why is it inaccurate to say that few Pitcairners are interested in a ship's arrival?

11. Why was showing affection in public banned on Pitcairn?

12. Why is a carving of the *Bounty* considered a suitable **memento** of Pitcairn?

13. What determines the price of an **intricately** carved model of the *Bounty*?

14. How many of those who originally sailed to Pitcairn with Christian had helped him with the mutiny?

15. Why would it be inaccurate to say that any of the Islanders could be sent out on the longboat to board the ship?

