

Word List

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

augment

v. To increase in size, amount, or degree.
In order to buy a new bike before summer, I **augmented** her savings by babysitting the twins next door.

benign

adj. 1. Kind; gracious; gentle.
Friendly nurses were a **benign** presence in the hospital.
2. Favorable; not threatening.
Although the weather had been **benign** in the morning when Juan and Ana started out on their bikes, by noon the sky was dark, and they heard thunder in the distance.
.....
Say something benign to your partner.

connoisseur

n. A person with extensive knowledge, especially of the fine arts; a person of refined taste.
A **connoisseur** of rare stamps would recognize the famous English "penny black" at once.
.....
Share with your partner something you would like to be a connoisseur of, such as rare coins or first-edition comic books.

discern

v. 1. To detect with the eyes.
About forty-five minutes after the ferry left Block Island, the passengers could **discern** the coast of Rhode Island before them.
2. To understand or comprehend.
Not until she finished the novel did Janice **discern** the significance of the title.
3. To recognize as separate or different.
Unfortunately for Laura, her teacher was able to **discern** Laura's handwriting from her mother's handwriting.
discerning adj. Having good judgment; perceptive.
The coach's **discerning** comments about Rudi's jump shot helped him improve his game.
.....
Using a piece of scrap paper, draw a house. Then discern the differences between your drawing and your partner's drawing.

embellish

v. 1. To make beautiful by adding decorative elements.
The entire surface of the black cloth had been **embellished** with colored threads stitched in elaborate patterns.
2. To add fictitious details to.
Mark Twain often **embellished** his stories to make them more interesting.
.....
Tell your partner what is happening in class right now, but embellish the story with some unbelievable details.

execute

v. 1. To carry out; to perform.
The karate instructor told me to **execute** a front snap kick.
2. To create, as a work of art.
The sculptor Maya Lin often uses unusual materials, such as pieces of wood or shards of glass, to **execute** her pieces.
3. To put to death as a legal penalty.
Executing criminals condemned to death is a controversial practice.
.....
Talk to your partner about a plan you executed that did not go well.

exemplify

v. To illustrate by being an example of.
The poetry of Langston Hughes **exemplifies** some of the best work of the writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

grotesque

adj. So distorted or strange as to appear bizarre or comical.
The **grotesque** masks worn by the dancers frightened the children.

hallowed

adj. Greatly respected; holy; sacred.
Arlington National Cemetery is **hallowed** ground because it is the burial place for soldiers who have died in war.

impersonate

v. 1. To assume the character or appearance of.
The solution to the mystery became clear to the detective when he learned that one woman had **impersonated** another when renting the apartment.
2. To mimic.
I tried to **impersonate** my mother when I answered the phone.


malevolent

adj. Showing ill will or hatred; producing harm or evil.
The bully's **malevolent** plan was to frighten the younger students on the bus so they would give him their lunch money.
malevolence n. A feeling or expression of ill will.
The look of **malevolence** in his eyes sent shudders down our spines.
.....
Give your partner a look of malevolence.

ornate
ôr nāt'
adj. Heavily and elaborately decorated.
The tour guide pointed out the **ornate** carving over the arched doorway.

pastoral
pas'tar əl
adj. 1. Having to do with shepherds and herders.
The Industrial Revolution contributed to the disappearance of a **pastoral** way of life.
2. Relating to country life, and often presented as charmingly simple.
Some of my sister's college friends plan to move together to a **pastoral** place where they will herd goats and grow their own vegetables.

precarious
prē kar' ē əs
adj. Not safe or secure; dangerously uncertain.
Having cut through the thick vines to get a better view of the waterfall, the hikers did not understand how **precarious** their situation was until they tried to return to the trail and could not find it.

 *Tell your partner about a precarious situation you once found yourself in.*

renown
rē noun
n. Fame; honor.
By 1964, the Beatles had achieved worldwide **renown** for their rock-and-roll music.

renowned *adj.* Famous; honored.
Isabelle Allende is a **renowned** writer, lecturer, translator, and journalist who has lived in many places around the world.

11A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 11. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) one that is friendly or kind. (c) A benign expression is
(b) A grotesque expression is (d) one that is meant to deceive.

2. (a) add decoration to it. (c) take care of it.
(b) To embellish something is to (d) To discern something is to

3. (a) one that is nonexistent. (c) A hallowed location is
(b) one that is insecure. (d) A precarious location is

4. (a) To exemplify something is to (c) To impersonate something is to
(b) be a good example of it. (d) be frustrated by it.

5. (a) To augment something (c) To discern something
(b) is to be unaware of it. (d) is to notice it.

6. (a) that has some practical use. (c) A hallowed object is one
(b) that is regarded as sacred. (d) An ornate object is one

7. (a) Renown is (c) a show of understanding.
(b) Malevolence is (d) a feeling of intense ill will.

8. (a) that is made of precious metal. (c) that is heavily decorated.
(b) An ornate object is one (d) A grotesque object is one

9. (a) To impersonate someone (c) is to show admiration for that person.
(b) is to put that person to death. (d) To execute someone

10. (a) is one that is famous. (c) A pastoral novel
(b) A renowned novel (d) is one whose author is unknown.

11B

Just the Right Word

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

1. The singer's **world-wide reputation** made him easily recognizable.
2. Mirta **increased the size of** her wardrobe by making several dresses during summer vacation.
3. At the costume shop, we found just the mask we wanted—one with **horribly distorted** features and green hair.
4. Even critics who were **able to perceive small differences** could not tell that the painting was a fake.
5. It is a crime to **dress up as and pretend to be** a police officer.
6. The museum director is a **person who is both knowledgeable about and has a love of** modern art.
7. The arch is a **good example of what is distinctive about** Roman architecture.
8. Simone **added a few untrue details to** her account of the dog's rescue, suggesting that her own role had been crucial.
9. Even though the sculptor **created according to his artistic vision** hundreds of sculptures, he never felt they fully expressed what he meant.
10. The student play alternates scenes in a **simple and unaffected country** setting with those in the splendid palace of the king.

augment
benign
connoisseur
discern
embellish
execute
exemplify
grotesque
hallowed
impersonate
malevolent
ornate
pastoral
precarious
renown

11C

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 present in a **pastoral** scene?
 - (a) a shepherd
 - (b) a meadow
 - (c) a stream
 - (d) a skyscraper
2. Which of the following can be **ornate**?
 - (a) a design
 - (b) a brooch
 - (c) an ordeal
 - (d) an inkling
3. Which of the following can be **discerned**?
 - (a) a slight crack
 - (b) a slight movement
 - (c) a slight difference
 - (d) a meaning
4. Which of the following can be **executed**?
 - (a) a portrait
 - (b) a person
 - (c) a dance step
 - (d) an order
5. Which of the following can be **malevolent**?
 - (a) an odor
 - (b) a pseudonym
 - (c) a grin
 - (d) a person
6. Which of the following can be **impersonated**?
 - (a) a friend's grades
 - (b) a friend's brother
 - (c) a friend's bicycle
 - (d) a friend's walk
7. Which of the following can be **hallowed**?
 - (a) a person's name
 - (b) a place of worship
 - (c) a battlefield
 - (d) a person's memory
8. Which of the following can be **benign**?
 - (a) an expression
 - (b) a tirade
 - (c) a cell phone
 - (d) a climate



11E

Vocabulary in Context
Read the passage.

The Kachina Dolls of Oraibi

The village of Oraibi lies in the middle of the four-thousand-square-mile Hopi Reservation in the northeast corner of Arizona. It is believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited village in North America. Oraibi was first settled nearly a thousand years ago by the Anasazi, a **pastoral** people, who excelled in the creation of beautiful objects.

The descendants of the Anasazi, the Hopi people, now inhabit the area and continue the tradition of making fine pottery, woven rugs, and baskets. But Hopi artistry is best **exemplified** by the unique form of carved wooden figures known as kachinas. These figures are sculpted from the root of the cottonwood tree and range in size from a few inches up to two feet. The heads often have **ornately** carved masks. The finished figures are painted in bright colors and embellished with shells, feathers, and semiprecious stones.

The kachina carvings are representations of the Hopi spirit world. In the Hopi view, everything in the world is inhabited by a spirit; when people succeed in living in harmony and balance with the spirits, the world will be at peace. The carvings represent the spirits of **hallowed** figures from Hopi history as well as of plants and animals, the sun, the moon, and the stars.

From late December to late July, the spirits are believed to be on Earth. During this time, the Hopi perform ceremonies in their villages. Masked and costumed dancers impersonate the spirits in celebrations held in their honor. Some of the dancers represent **benign**, gift-bearing kachinas who present children with carved dolls. These are not toys, for they have a religious and social significance. But neither are they worshiped as idols. They are hung on the walls of Hopi homes, and by learning what each kachina doll stands for, the children **discern** the history, codes of behavior, and religion of their people. Along with the gift-bearing kachinas, there are also representations of **malevolent** spirits who dance through the village streets. Supposedly, they are searching for those in the community who have been disobedient. These demon kachinas are often **grotesque** in appearance, frightening to those who see them approaching.

Until the late nineteenth century, outside visitors were rare in Hopi villages; their inhabitants did not encourage such visits, and the paths leading to the high, flat hilltops were very **precarious**. But once roads were built,

Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

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

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|-------------|---|---|
| 1. secure | benign | precarious | agile | S | A |
| 2. turmoil | banter | audacity | tumult | S | A |
| 3. intricate | unseemly | appropriate | mild | S | A |
| 4. humdrum | inane | electrifying | offensive | S | A |
| 5. kind | ornate | benevolent | bizarre | S | A |
| 6. languish | simplify | impersonate | embellish | S | A |
| 7. avid | agile | intricate | complicated | S | A |
| 8. foolish | balmy | turbulent | gruesome | S | A |
| 9. atrocious | fitful | commendable | crucial | S | A |
| 10. slovenly | audible | fastidious | copious | S | A |

11D

augment
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discern
embellish
execute
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grotesque
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impersonate
malevolent
ornate
pastoral
precarious
renown

access to the heights was easy, soon, tourists began to outnumber the residents. They came to watch the religious ceremonies held in the spring and summer. As mementos, they purchased kachina dolls. Hopi carvers, who once had made these dolls only for use in their own communities, stepped up production to meet the demand.

Gradually, the kachinas began to change. Tourists wanted larger carvings and figures showing action. The size of a kachina was **augmented** by the addition of other carved pieces attached by glue; and because many Hopi were opposed to the sale of their religious objects to outsiders, the figures were **executed** so that they differed from those used in Hopi ceremonies.

Today, many Hopi carvers continue the ancient tradition, using the same simple materials and tools of earlier generations. Collectors of Native American art purchase kachina dolls directly from these carvers or from gift shops that feature their work. Some carvers have achieved world renown; their work commands prices in the thousands of dollars.

Connoisseurs of Hopi carving who travel to Oklahoma City will find over sixty kachina dolls on permanent display at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. In Phoenix, Arizona, the place to visit is the Heard Museum. It is famous for its collection of over four hundred dolls, many of them presented to the museum by Arizona's then-senator Barry Goldwater.

► 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 Hopi dancers are not considered to be actual kachina spirits?

2. What is the purpose of the **malevolent** kachina dancers?

3. Before the end of the last century, why didn't many tourists visit the Hopi?

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4. What detail tells you that the carvers spend a lot of time working on the heads of the dolls?

5. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the kachina dolls are very simple in style?

6. What is the meaning of **benign** as it is used in the passage?

7. How can people tell the difference between the demon kachina dancers and the gift-bearing kachina dancers?

8. Why have some Hopi opposed selling kachinas to outsiders?

9. How do you know that the ancestors of the Hopi raised sheep or goats?

10. What do the kachina carvings **exemplify**?

11. What is the meaning of **executed** as it is used in the passage?

12. What important role do kachina dolls play in the education of Hopi children?

