

Word List

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

abhor
ab'hor'
v. To shrink from in disgust; to detest.
We **abhor** cruelty in all its forms.



abhorrent *adj.* Disgusting; causing loathing.
Any form of discrimination is **abhorrent** to decent people.
.....
Talk to your partner about a food that is abhorrent to you.

affable
af'ə-bəl'
adj. Pleasant; approachable; gracious.
Maribel's **affable** manner brought her many friends.



affability *n.* Friendliness of manner.
The counselor welcomed the young campers with such **affability** that no one felt homesick.
.....
Show your partner some facial expressions that would demonstrate affability.

amiss
ə'mis'
adv. In a wrong or imperfect way.
Don't take **amiss** my suggestion for improving your drawing.

adj. Out of order; wrong.
Although the door was wide open when we got home late, nothing seemed **amiss** at first.

despondent
də'spɒn'dənt'
adj. Depressed from loss of hope or confidence; utterly discouraged.
I was completely **despondent** that our dog had run away.

entreat
en'treɪt'
v. To ask earnestly; to beg.
"Please, please, let me have a lizard," Augustin **entreated** his parents. "I promise to take care of it!"

entreaty *n.* A plea or earnest request.
The umpire ignored the coach's **entreaties** to reverse the call.

haunt
haʊnt'
v. 1. To stay in one's mind continually.
Even though I heard the song a year ago, the music continues to **haunt** me.

2. To visit frequently.
Jeremy **haunted** the mall, hoping to catch a glimpse of his old friend.
3. To appear in the form of a ghost.
The Headless Horseman **haunted** the hollow where Ichabod Crane rode his horse.
.....



Share with your partner a character from a story or movie who haunts you.

impel
im'pel'

v. 1. To drive or to propel.
A raging current **impelled** their raft downstream toward the waterfall.
2. To urge or drive by force or moral pressure.
Hatred of slavery **impelled** Harriet Tubman to return repeatedly to the South to help other enslaved people escape.

interminable
in'ter'mi-nə-bəl'

adj. Endless; seeming to be without end.
We had an **interminable** wait at the amusement park entrance because of the enormous crowds trying to get in.



Tell your partner about a time when you had to complete an interminable amount of homework.

irascible
i-ras'ə-bəl'

adj. Quick-tempered; irritable.
My grandfather looked kindly, but he was really quite **irascible**.

profound
prə'faʊnd'

adj. 1. Intense; deeply felt.
Parents who had been separated from their children at the beginning of the war felt **profound** joy when they were reunited in the refugee camp.
2. Having understanding or knowledge that goes beneath the surface, beyond the obvious.
Profound insights from Thoreau and Gandhi influenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideas about nonviolent protest.



Discuss with your partner a person you know who has profound knowledge about a particular subject. Who is the person, and what is the subject?

recluse
rek'lūz'

n. A person who lives apart from society and often alone.
Ahmed became a **recluse** when he was trying to finish writing his book, refusing to leave his apartment for days on end.

reclusive *adj.* Withdrawn from society.
Our neighbors are so **reclusive** that we hardly see them from one year to the next.

reverberate
rē'ver'bə-rāt'

v. To be repeated as in a series of echoes or vibrations.
We loved to hear our shouts **reverberate** as we ran through the old tunnel.

sage
sāj'

adj. Having wisdom and good judgment.
Ben Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* offered **sage** advice to the colonists.

n. 1. A person known for wisdom and good judgment.
When I need advice, I consult my grandmother, the family **sage**.
2. An aromatic grayish-green plant used in cooking.
Sage and onion are essential ingredients for a good turkey stuffing.



Talk to your partner about some sage words you might say to a friend in trouble.

abhor	irascible
affable	intimidable
amiss	impel
despondent	haunt
entreat	irascible
	profound
	recluse
	reverebrate
	sage
	tirade
	tremulous



tremulous



tirade

n. A long, angry speech.
We lost interest in Marni's endless **tirades** about how people disrespected her.
.....
Discuss with your partner how to talk to someone who constantly goes on **tirades** about his or her problems. How can you change the subject?

adj. 1. Marked by trembling or shaking.
The little girl tried to look brave when she fell and scraped her knee, but her **tremulous** lower lip betrayed her.
2. Timid or fearful.
In a **tremulous** voice, Alejandro told us how he had lost our money.

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.

- (a) Odd noises in the night convinced Sasha that the house was **haunted**.
(b) Many children are **haunted** by the idea of ghosts under the bed.
(c) Suki **haunted** her aunt to let her stay longer.
(d) The reporter **haunted** the major-league clubhouses, looking for good stories.

- (a) "Stay in school" is **sage** advice to anyone thinking of dropping out.
(b) The old **sage** was born many years ago and is an inspiration to many.
(c) **Sage** is a small evergreen shrub used in cooking.
(d) The repair work will be done in three separate **sages**.
- (a) After one of his lengthy **tirades** about taxes, he would always fall asleep.
(b) Jin tried to convince the **tirade** to join him.
(c) Her **tirades** often happen when she hasn't eaten breakfast.
(d) The **tirade** brought six inches of rain to coastal areas.
- (a) Woodchucks live in underground **abhors** where they feel safe.
(b) We were taught to **abhor** bigotry in all its forms.
(c) Cheating is **abhorrent** to everything the school stands for.
(d) The soft meadow was beautiful and **abhorrent**.

- (a) By September the grapes are **affable** and ready to be picked.
(b) The principal's **affable** manner made him well liked.
(c) The **affability** of the soil makes growing crops difficult.
(d) We should all strive for honesty and **affability**.
- (a) If anything seems **amiss**, please tell me.
(b) My letter to my grandma went **amiss**, and she never received it.
(c) He took **amiss** my remark that he might want to work on his singing.
(d) Every time the dog went **amiss**, we knew she would come back.
- (a) Plates of **entreaties** were served at the party.
(b) The student **entreated** the teacher to let her go to the bathroom.
(c) The visitors were **entreated** to a large meal.
(d) Jasmine got upset when her parents ignored her tearful **entreaties**.
- (a) Faisal **impelled** in the smell of the bakery.
(b) What **impels** you to say the things you say?
(c) Air forced from the engine **impels** the jet forward at high speed.
(d) Keep studying until you feel you have **impelled** enough.
- (a) A **profound** silence greeted us as we walked into the room.
(b) Einstein had many **profound** insights.
(c) The water in the pool is not **profound** enough for swimming.
(d) Elise has **profound** love for her parents.
- (a) The weather turned **irascible**, so we decided to stay home.
(b) Elijah gets **irascible** if he is kept waiting.
(c) Her **irascible** mood scared us too much to talk to her.
(d) This **irascible** math problem cannot be solved.
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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 *unhappy*?
 (a) dejected (b) profound (c) despondent (d) forlorn

2. Which word or words go with *endless*?
 (a) perpetual (b) temporary (c) interminable (d) abhorrent

3. Which word or words go with *alone*?
 (a) tirade (b) recluse (c) solitude (d) solitary

4. Which word or words go with *vibrate*?
 (a) accelerate (b) punctuate (c) reverberate (d) entreat

5. Which word or words go with *fearful*?
 (a) affable (b) apprehensive (c) tremulous (d) steadfast

6. Which word or words go with *strongly dislike*?
 (a) loathe (b) entreat (c) abhor (d) detest

7. Which word or words go with *friendly*?
 (a) despondent (b) amiable (c) tremulous (d) affable

8. Which word or words go with *beg*?
 (a) beseech (b) entreat (c) impel (d) implore

9. Which word or words go with *angry*?
 (a) abhorrent (b) irascible (c) exasperated (d) reclusive

10. Which word or words go with *wise*?
 (a) interminable (b) astute (c) sage (d) shrewd

abhor
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Determining Meanings

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

1. Sage

- (a) advice from my aunt put me on the right path.
 (b) grows year-round if the soil is right.
 (c) weather enabled us to be clad in shorts, T-shirts, and sandals.
 (d) words should not be ignored.

2. It was amiss

- (a) of me to forget your birthday.
 (b) for everyone that we stay home and do nothing.
 (c) to give me such a wonderful present on my birthday.
 (d) of the students to treat the teacher disrespectfully.

3. I was despondent

- (a) that my relatives helped me complete the extra work.
 (b) when I realized the game was rained out.
 (c) when I learned that my bus was canceled.
 (d) and glowing with happiness.

4. Haunted

- (a) by memories of when he fell on stage, Hamid never wanted to dance again.
 (b) castles can be very popular with tourists.
 (c) until it was almost extinct, the American bison is now making a comeback.
 (d) cows in India are protected by state laws.

5. The superhero was impelled

- (a) in over three hundred newspapers nationwide.
 (b) from crashing into the lake.
 (c) to fight evil whenever she could.
 (d) through the air by a secret force.

6. An interminable

- (a) argument seemed to have been going on for days.
 (b) flower died because it didn't have enough water.
 (c) rule let the uniformed students wear whatever they wanted on Fridays.
 (d) silence followed the announcement, as no one present had a word to say.

The Tiger's Whisker

This folk tale from Korea tells us how love can heal deep wounds,

not quickly or easily, but with patience and courage.

Once Kim Soo-Nyung's life was filled with happiness. She and her husband, Liang-Po, one of the most **affable** of men, cultivated the fields of their small farm and raised three children with never an angry word spoken between them. But when war broke out, Liang-Po was forced to serve in the army even though he **abhorred** violence.

While he was away, Soo-Nyung and her three children worked hard to ensure the success of the farm. They took satisfaction in planting and harvesting, caring for the livestock, and keeping the farm buildings in good repair, all without outside help. The war, though, dragged on **interminably**; there were times when Soo-Nyung grew **despondent**, thinking she would never see Liang-Po again. But one day in the early spring, as she was drawing water from the well, she looked up to see him limping along the road toward the farm. Scarcely able to believe her eyes, Soo-Nyung rushed to greet him and welcome him home.

Her joy was short-lived, however, for it did not take long to see that something was amiss. There had been a **profound** change in Liang-Po. He, who always had been ready for a joke or a romp with his children, was now **irascible** and snapped at them without cause. He shut himself away like a **recluse**, responding to Soo-Nyung's pleas that he join her and the children for the evening meal with a stony silence. If she persisted, he would launch into a **tirade** that caused her to flee his presence. He took no interest in the farm, no pleasure in his family, and refused to talk about what troubled him. In time, Soo-Nyung, having lost patience with her husband, had no more dealings with him.

Liang-Po's mother, who lived in the next village, was distressed by her daughter-in-law's unhappiness. She persuaded Soo-Nyung to visit a local herbalist, a woman who was famous as much for her **sage** advice as for her herbal remedies. Soo-Nyung's sad story touched this woman's heart. "Your husband undoubtedly witnessed terrible scenes while in the army, for that is the nature of war," she told Soo-Nyung. "He is **haunted** by those memories.



Completing Sentences

Complete the sentences to demonstrate your knowledge of the words in bold.

7. A **profound** creature rose from the water and opened its jaws.
 - (a) person has intense and deeply felt thoughts.
 - (b) loyalty to one's country might cause someone to join the military.
 - (c) pothole in the road almost broke the car's rear axle.
 - (d) people tend to live alone.
8. **Reclusive** families love getting together with others.
 - (a) billonaires avoid publicity, preferring to remain anonymous.
 - (b) writing has many loops and flourishes.

1. A place my voice would **reverberate** is _____

2. If I met the president of the United States, I would **entreat** him or her to _____

3. One example of **sage** advice might be: _____

4. In stories, a **haunted** house often has _____

5. One thing I **abhor** about the world is _____

6. If something is **amiss**, that means it is _____

7. Something I could **impel** through the air is _____

8. I quickly get **irascible** when _____

9. **Affability** is a good quality because _____

10. A **tirade** is _____

abhor
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Fortunately there is a cure, but it requires a whisker plucked from a wild tiger. When you bring it to me, you shall have the remedy your husband needs."

In a **tremulous** voice, Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist. "The thought of facing a wild tiger filled her with dread, but she loved her husband, and this impelled her to follow the herbalist's instructions. She made her way to the tiger's lair, where she was greeted with a terrifying roar that **reverberated** through the forest. She fled in a panic, convinced that the wild beast was about to tear her limb from limb. Still, she found the courage to return the next day, this time with a piece of red meat. After smelling it suspiciously, the tiger devoured the meat.

Day after day, Soo-Nyung returned with more meat until the tiger grew so accustomed to her that she was finally able to rub its head and tickle its throat without being afraid. At last there came a day when she found the courage to reach out and pluck one of its whiskers. The tiger drew back and growled, but it did not attack her. Triumphantly, Soo-Nyung returned to the herbalist with the tiger's whisker, **entreating** her to prepare the remedy she needed. The wise herbalist replied that Soo-Nyung had already found the cure. "If you can win the trust of a savage tiger," she said, "surely you can find the patience to regain the affection of your husband, whose heart has been hardened by war."

Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist for teaching her a valuable lesson. In time her patience was rewarded when Liang-Po was restored to his former self.

► 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 we know that the war kept Liang-Po from his family for a long time?

2. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Liang-Po as **irascible** at the end of the story?

3. Why did Liang-Po's mother want to help?

4. What kind of reputation did the woman have that Soo-Nyung went to for help?

5. What is the meaning of **amiss** as it is used in the passage?

6. On what occasions did Liang-Po break his silence following his return?

7. Why would Liang-Po's **reclusive** behavior be very hard for the family to deal with?

8. How do we know that Liang-Po probably got along with his neighbors before the war?

9. What was the outcome of Soo-Nyung's **entreaty** to the herbalist for help?

10. Why was it likely that the tiger's roar startled other animals?

11. Why might Liang-Po have had trouble sleeping after his return?

12. How do we know that farm work was not **abhorrent** to Soo-Nyung?

abhor
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Fun & Fascinating FACTS

• The Latin word *ira*, meaning "anger," forms the root of several English words having related meanings. *Ire* is a synonym for *anger*. (In a carefully worded letter to the editor, James expressed his *ire* over the plans to build a mall in the center of town.)

• *Irate* and *irascible* are synonyms for *angry*. *Irate* suggests a single instance of becoming angry. (Karen became *irate* when she saw that someone had left the gate open to the horse pasture.) *Irascible* suggests a continuing inability to control one's anger.

13. Who **impelled** Soo-Nyung to visit the herbalist?

14. What does Liang-Po's snapping at his children tell you of his disposition after the war?

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