


Word List

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


avid *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.

brusque *adj.* 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.


concise *adj.* 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.

demean *v.* 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**.

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

emulate *v.* 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.

evoke *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.* (e vək' a 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 *adj.* Very painful.
The ointment soothed the **excruciating** burn on Dalip's arm.

inaugurate *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 *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 *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 *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.

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Then write the sentence.

- (a) To inaugurate someone is to
(b) try to win that person's favor.
(c) To rebuff someone is to
(d) install that person in office.
- (a) be unreliable or untrustworthy.
(b) have a strong desire for
(c) To be avid is to
(d) To be resilient is to something.
- (a) is to summon it from memory.
(b) To pervade something
(c) To pervade something
(d) is to spread throughout it.
- (a) one that is ignored.
(b) one that deserves contempt.
(c) A despicable comment is
(d) A brusque comment is
- (a) returns to its original shape.
(b) Something that is resilient
(c) Something that is evocative
(d) is easily damaged.
- (a) one that is favorable.
(b) one that is abrupt in manner.
(c) A brusque remark is
(d) A concise remark is
- (a) A proprietor is
(b) a fictitious name.
(c) A story made up on the spur of the moment.
(d) A pseudonym is

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| avid | brusque |
| | concise |
| | demean |
| | despicable |
| | emulate |
| | evoke |
| | excruciating |
| | inaugurate |
| | peripatetic |
| | proprietor |
| | pseudonym |
| | rebuff |
| | resilient |
| | turbulent |

rebuff

- To reject bluntly.
Our teacher **rebuffed** all our requests to change the deadline for the project.
- To drive back.
Although the men in the Alamo were determined to **rebuff** Santa Anna's forces, in the end they were defeated.
- A blunt rejection.
Caroline's offer to Frida to patch up their quarrel met with a **rebuff**.
- An abrupt setback in progress.
After a storm delayed their start, the climbers experienced another **rebuff** when a rock slide shut down one of the trails.



resilient

- Capable of recovering quickly from misfortune.
After she lost her job, my mom was so **resilient**, she went out and found another one.
- Returning quickly to an original shape or condition.
A wool sweater is more **resilient** after washing than a cotton one.
- The ability to recover.
Stefano showed great **resilience** after he caught the flu.
- The ability to spring back.
Tennis balls lose **resilience** after three or four sets of vigorous play.

turbulent

- Chaotic; unruly.
My brother and I tried our best to stay calm during the **turbulent** period of our parents' divorce.
- Stormy; tempestuous.
Such a **turbulent** sea prevented all boats from leaving the harbor.
- Great disturbance or agitation.
The **turbulence** of the 1960s included peace marches, civil rights protests, and assassinations.
- Rapid changes in wind speed and direction in the atmosphere.
The "Fasten Your Seatbelts" sign flashed on when the plane encountered **turbulence**.

8. (a) try to initiate that person. (c) To emulate someone is to
(b) try to influence that person. (d) To demean someone is to

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

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

1B

Just the Right Word

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

- The swelling in Denise's ankle was **so painful that she could hardly stand it**.
- From Ms. Hernandez's **abrupt manner**, the students understood immediately that something was wrong.
- The 1930s was a **very disturbed and agitated** decade in European history.
- When the lawyer attempted to **harm the reputation of** the witness by calling her a liar, the judge intervened.
- Who is the **person with the legal right to the ownership of** the furniture business?
- Without any explanation, Emi **bluntly rejected** Brandon's offer to help change the tire.
- 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.

1C

Applying Meanings

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

- Which of the following might employ a **pseudonym**?
(a) a writer (c) a president of a country
(b) a Supreme Court judge (d) a small business
- Which of the following can have a **proprietor**?
(a) a corner store (c) a small business
(b) a small child (d) a government agency
- Which of the following has **resilience**?
(a) a person (c) a lawn
(b) a doormat (d) a question
- Which of the following can be **pervasive**?
(a) time (c) fear
(b) silence (d) a smell
- Which of the following can be **inaugurated**?
(a) a president (c) a bad habit
(b) a delivery service (d) a promise
- Which of the following can be **evoked**?
(a) a loose tooth (c) a happy memory
(b) a grudging response (d) a broken ski pole
- Which of the following might suffer a **rebuff**?
(a) an announcement (c) a proposal
(b) an attack (d) a friendly gesture

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8. In which of the following might there be **turbulence**?

- (a) a relationship
(b) the air
(c) the ocean
(d) a lawn

1D

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.

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1E

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



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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?

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

3. Why did Angelou compose "On the Pulse of Morning"?

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?
