

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

alienate
aí' yə n at

- v. 1. To cause to feel unfriendly where friendliness once existed. Be careful not to **alienate** voters, because we need their support.
2. To cause to feel alone and cut off from.

Her year out of school had **alienated** Ruby from her classmates.

Discuss with your partner how you would handle a situation in which you have become alienated from a group of friends.

fervent
fər' vant

adj. Having or showing great warmth or deep feeling; intensely eager. Looking meaningfully at the jury, the lawyer made a **fervent** plea for his client's life.

fervor n. Great warmth and intensity of feeling. Romeo addressed Juliet with such **fervor** that her eyes filled with tears.

Tell your partner about the person in your family who greets people with the most fervor.

forbearance
fər' bair əns

n. A showing of self-control or patience. With unusual **forbearance**, the principal asked the unruly student to explain the reason for his vandalism.

forbear v. To hold back; to keep from doing or saying something. My mother asked me to **forbear** revealing to my younger brothers that Abuela was ill.

guilible
güí' ə bəl

adj. Easily tricked or cheated; too trusting. I was **guilible** enough to believe him when he said he would be on time.

hindrance
hín' drəns

n. Any person or thing that is an obstacle. Heavy traffic on the expressway is always a **hindrance** to my getting to school on time.

inflammatory
ín' flam ə tór' ē

adj. Causing anger or trouble. Even though the defendant's rhetoric was **inflammatory**, the Supreme Court upheld his right to freedom of speech.

inflame v. (in' flam) 1. To excite or anger. The principal's refusal to listen to our concerns **inflamed** us to the point of shouting.

2. To make or become swollen and sore. Try not to rub your eye; it will just **inflame** it.

Share with your partner an inflammatory speech or argument you have seen on television. How did it make you feel?

ordain
ór' dān

v. 1. To order or prearrange. The U.S. Constitution **ordains** three separate branches of government: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

2. To install as a minister, priest, or rabbi, often in a special ceremony. She hopes to work in the villages in Chiapas once she is **ordained**.

ovation
ò' vā shən

n. An enthusiastic reception; long and loud applause. When the pianist stepped onto the stage, the audience rose with a spontaneous **ovation**.

overt
ò' vurt

adj. Not hidden; public. After months of making small hints about my clothes, my older sister finally made an **overt** offer to buy me a new spring wardrobe.

Give your partner an overt compliment.

recant
ré' kant

v. To take back an opinion or statement; to confess to being wrong. After he talked to a lawyer, the young man **recanted** his confession and pleaded "not guilty."

Say something to your partner and then immediately recant your statement.

rejoinder
ré' join' dər

n. A reply to what has been said. Uncle Paco was famous in our family for his funny, sharp **rejoinders**.

reproach
' ré' prōch

v. To find fault with; to blame. My mother **reproached** me for forgetting my little brother's birthday.

n. Blame, disgrace, or discredit. When my grandmother died at the age of ninety-four, she had lived a life that was above **reproach**.

Tell your partner how you feel when your parent or guardian reproaches you.

servile
sərv'vil

adj. Excessively humble; overly willing to serve or to please.
Marta's **servile** attention to the teacher was her way of trying to get a good grade.

surpass
sə'pas

v. To exceed or go beyond.
The fact that Marta finished her first marathon **surpassed** her wildest dreams.
.....
Tell your partner about a record you would like to surpass, such as baking the world's largest pizza.

villify
vil'ifai

v. To make vicious remarks about someone in a way that damages that person's character; to slander.
The candidates for governor agreed not to **villify** each other in their commercials.

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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.

- Refusal to learn is the biggest **hindrance** to success in anything. ____
 - The loud music next door is a **hindrance** to me falling asleep. ____
 - Before 1920, being born female was a **hindrance** to entering politics. ____
 - There was a secret **hindrance** to the cave where the cache was hidden. ____
- The senator's **inflammatory** accusations made national headlines. ____
 - Inflammatory** materials shouldn't be kept near a flame. ____
 - The wound needs to be treated before it becomes **inflamed**. ____
 - The speaker **inflamed** the crowd with her fiery words. ____
- Priests are **ordained** at a solemn ceremony attended by a bishop. ____
 - The school **ordained** that uniforms were to be worn all the time. ____
 - I **ordained** the information I needed from the library. ____
 - The king **ordained** that his only daughter would be queen after his death. ____
- My best friend **reproached** me for not coming to her birthday party. ____
 - The **reproach** I received was harsh but I admit I deserved it. ____
 - At the first **reproach** of the lion, the gazelle turned and fled. ____
 - Those aboard were told to look out for rocks as we **reproached** the harbor. ____

© S1. DO NOT DUPLICATE

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- The extra food will be **surpassed** to the homeless. ____
- The library fundraiser easily **surpassed** its target of ten thousand dollars. ____
- Marc **surpassed** his personal record by a full second. ____
- Surpass** me the salt, please. ____
- Her **rejoinders** always showed her great sense of humor. ____
- Rihanna tried to think of a suitable **rejoinder** after Mel stopped talking. ____
- The **rejoinders** stayed with the group the rest of the trip. ____
- The girl felt **alienated** in the corner of the schoolyard. ____
- The pool water was **alienated** with chlorine. ____
- All trace of dirt on the kitchen floor was **alienated**. ____
- My friend **alienated** me when she called me a rude name. ____
- The **fervent** Russian winter has had record low temperatures. ____
- The graduates showed their **fervor** by throwing their caps in the air. ____
- The patient's **fervor** was serious enough to require medical attention. ____
- The **fervent** crowd cheered when the ball dropped on New Year's Eve. ____
- The young leader urged **forbearance** on his followers. ____
- Phoebe asked me to **forbear** telling the teacher that she cheated. ____
- I ran around screaming and waving my arms with **forbearance**. ____
- The boy will never **forbear** the look on his mother's face when he gave her the rose. ____
- Those who are **gullible** are often tricked into giving away money. ____
- Conditions grew more **gullible** as the scorching days went by. ____
- The more **gullible** parts of the country were the first to be settled. ____
- The **gullible** king believed that straw could be turned into gold. ____

Making Connections

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

- Which word or words go with *praise*?
(a) acclaim (b) alienate (c) ovation (d) applaud
- Which word or words go with *not hidden*?
(a) fervent (b) overt (c) servile (d) apparent
- Which word or words go with *take something back*?
(a) reproach (b) instill (c) recant (d) ordain
- Which word or words go with *slavery*?
(a) bondage (b) ovation (c) servile (d) fervor
- Which word or words go with *attack*?
(a) triumph (b) vilify (c) surpass (d) assail
- Which word or words go with *sincere*?
(a) ardent (b) fervent (c) earnest (d) inflammatory
- Which word or words go with *criticize*?
(a) recant (b) admonish (c) reproach (d) rebuke
- Which word or words go with *exceed*?
(a) exist (b) inflame (c) surpass (d) stagnate
- Which word or words go with *conversation*?
(a) hindrance (b) rejoinder (c) ovation (d) banter
- Which word or words go with *passionate*?
(a) vehement (b) inflammatory (c) servile (d) combustible

Determining Meanings

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

- An ovation**
(a) that lasted for minutes at a time greeted the pop singer everywhere she went.
(b) on the edge of the cliff wavered in the wind.
(c) of nine months is normal for human beings.
(d) greeted the announcement that the president would make a speech after all.
- Recanting**
(a) his lie to the principal took bravery.
(b) was really her only option if she wanted to confess.
(c) the water into the bathtub took forever.
(d) every chapter for the test took Lu forever.
- A servile**
(a) way to talk is to brag about everything.
(b) look from her baby brother told her he was finally going to agree to a nap.
(c) sun couldn't warm the snow that winter morning.
(d) attitude is far preferable to an arrogant attitude.
- Vilifying**
(a) someone else's signature is illegal.
(b) outsiders for being different is atrocious behavior.
(c) people for their religion is wrong.
(d) usually makes people happy.
- An overtly**
(a) private conversation was kept between the two of them.
(b) significant day in United States history books is July 4, 1776.
(c) large movement of the magician's hand pulled a rabbit from the hat.
(d) loud and intentional howl from the crowd scared me into dropping the football.
- Alienated**
(a) coastlines are disappearing as sea levels rise.
(b) from society, the man spent a lot of time by himself.
(c) from his mother, Kai has gone to live with his grandparents.
(d) from her pack, the lone wolf curled up and went to sleep under a bush.

7. We **forbear**

- (a) discussing politics when my uncle is visiting us.
- (b) pain the old-fashioned way, by gritting our teeth and moving on.
- (c) in the pool every day at noon.
- (d) to respond even when we are personally attacked.

8. The **gullible**

- (a) investors realized too late that they had no proof the offer was genuine.
- (b) part of town is where all the nice homes are.
- (c) listeners believed an invasion by Martians was really happening when it was reported on the radio on April Fool's Day.
- (d) sound of a dog howling always sends shivers up my spine.

Completing Sentences

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

1. If someone **vilified** me, I would feel _____
2. A **servile** attitude is one that _____
3. I would **reproach** anyone who _____
4. If someone asked me how I was doing, my **rejoinder** would be: _____
5. An example of a **hindrance** is _____
6. I would be **gullible** if I believed _____
7. A person I would give a standing **ovation** to is _____
8. Sometimes I feel **alienated** when _____
9. An example of a person who is **ordained** in a special ceremony is _____
10. I am a **fervent** supporter of _____

Vocabulary in Context
Read the passage.

Paul Robeson: All-American



In his 1958 autobiography, Paul Robeson tells of bringing home from school a test on which he had scored ninety-nine out of a possible one hundred. When his father **reproached** him for not getting a perfect score, Paul tried to explain that "no one ever gets one hundred." His father's **rejoinder** was a simple question: "Then why do they have it?"

Robeson's father had encountered and overcome great difficulties in his life. Born an enslaved person in 1845, he escaped to freedom at the age of fifteen and joined the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Later, he attended Lincoln University near Philadelphia and was **ordained** a minister. At a time when African Americans were expected to be **servile**, Mr. Robeson was a strong advocate of racial justice and equality.

As Robeson instilled a strong sense of purpose and principle in his eight children, he demanded much of them. Paul, the youngest, born in 1898, especially rose to the challenge. In 1915, he won a four-year scholarship to Rutgers College. However, as the third African American student ever to attend and the only one enrolled at that time, he felt **alienated** from his classmates. His presence on campus provoked both verbal and physical abuse from the more **overtly** racist students. But Robeson showed great **forbearance** in the face of these attacks. His response was to excel in everything he attempted. He won prizes for public speaking and served on the student council. He earned twelve varsity letters in football, baseball, basketball, and track. In 1917 and 1918, he earned a place on the All-American football team. He ended his final year with the highest grades of his graduating class.

To finance an education at Columbia Law School, Robeson worked at various jobs, playing professional football and acting in plays on weekends. However, after graduation he practiced law only briefly. He was hired by a white law firm in New York City, but the pervasive racism he encountered led him to abandon that career. He believed he would be prevented from working effectively as a lawyer. Instead Robeson began devoting his time to acting in plays and giving concerts in which he sang spirituals, the traditional folk songs of African Americans. His rich, deep, expressive singing voice, along with the friendly, warm rapport he developed with his audiences, made him a successful and popular performer.

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Within a few years, Robeson's fame was worldwide. His performance as Othello marked the first Broadway appearance by an African American actor in the role. The production's 296 performances **surpassed** the record of any previous Broadway Shakespearean drama. Later, in *Show Boat*, when he sang "Ol' Man River" on opening night, the **ovation** he received was overwhelming; the song became forever associated with Robeson.

As he toured countries around the world, performing in concerts and the theater, Robeson recognized similarities between the struggles of poor working people in America with those of people in other countries. Along with his regularly scheduled concerts, he often gave additional performances with a low admission price so that any who wished to hear him sing could attend. He refused to perform in theaters that had segregated seating. Through both song and speech, he conveyed a message of peace, freedom, and racial equality for all peoples.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Robeson was lionized wherever he went; tens of thousands of people attended his concerts. However, after World War II, Robeson was deeply disturbed by the unfair treatment that he saw in his own country. Returning African American soldiers, who had fought for the freedom of European citizens, continued to be treated as second-class citizens back in the United States. Robeson spoke out **ferently** against this, both in the United States and in other countries.

The United States government, regarding both his views and his words as **inflammatory**, acted. In 1950, his passport was confiscated. Robeson was **vilified** in the press as a Communist because of his political beliefs; he was called **guiltible** for his continuing support of and friendship with the Soviet people. After these attacks, his popularity with American audiences declined sharply. He was forbidden to leave the country unless he **recanted** his political views. This he would not do. Concert halls, record companies, and television stations refused to have anything to do with him. These **hindrances** prevented him from continuing his life as an artist.

In 1958, his passport was returned, in part as a result of pressure exerted by his supporters in countries throughout the world. Robeson was able to resume performing in concerts and speaking his mind. He called his autobiography *Here I Stand*, and no one was ever in doubt where Robeson stood on the issues of racial equality and freedom.

► 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. What was Paul Robeson's father's **rejoinder** meant to suggest?

2. What is the meaning of **ordained** as it is used in the passage?

3. Why did the United States government object to Robeson's views in 1950?

4. What **overt** step did the United States government officials take against Robeson?

5. Would it be accurate to say the United States government and press treated Robeson with **forbearance** in the 1950s? Explain.

6. How do you know that Robeson was a great success in *Show Boat*?

7. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Robeson as uninterested in social issues?

8. What is one adjective that could not be used to describe Robeson? Explain.

9. Why was Robeson banned from foreign travel between 1950 and 1958?

10. For what did Robeson **reproach** the United States after World War II ended?

11. Why didn't Robeson practice law for very long?

12. How did the rapport between Robeson and his admirers change during the 1950s?

13. How does the passage illustrate that news reporters wanted to destroy Robeson's reputation?

14. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Robeson's father as **gullible**?

15. What might Robeson's father have thought of his son's accomplishments?

Fu & Fascinating FACTS

- Don't confuse **forebear**, which is a verb in which the accent falls on the second syllable, with **forebear**, which is a noun in which the accent falls equally on both syllables and which means "an ancestor." To complicate matters, the noun **forebear** is sometimes spelled **forbear**. No one ever said the English language was simple or logical!
- The adjective **gullible** is formed from the verb and noun form **gull**. To **gull** someone is to deceive or trick that person; someone who is easily deceived is a **gull**. Both verb and noun forms are passing out of use, but there are still enough people capable of being easily deceived to keep the adjective form current.

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