

Word List

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

bulwark
bul' wark

- n. 1. A wall-like structure used as a defense.
 2. A person or thing that protects or defends.
- The Bill of Rights of our Constitution is a **bulwark** of our individual liberties.

culminate
kul' mi nat

- v. To reach or bring to the highest point.
- The Fourth of July celebrations **culminated** in a spectacular fireworks display.
- culmination** n. The result of a sustained effort; the high point or climax.
- Winning the Nobel Prize was the **culmination** of the scientist's long and distinguished career.



Tell your partner the **culmination** of your life so far.

engulf
en' gulf

- v. To swallow up by covering completely; to overwhelm.
- During the hurricane, a huge wave **engulfed** the boat and almost swept the crew overboard.

feasible
fe' za bal



- adj.** Able to be done; possible or likely.
- Building a new library is **feasible** if the town allots sufficient funds for it.
-
- Talk to your partner about some **feasible** alternatives to physical education class.

glut
glut

- n. A much larger supply than is needed.
- A **glut** of office space in downtown buildings resulted in a sharp drop in rents.
- v. 1. To supply a much larger amount than is needed.
- The weather was so ideal that California's growers **glutted** the market with strawberries.
2. To eat or consume to excess.
- Sitting under the heavily laden branches, we **glutted** ourselves on ripe peaches.

havoc
hav' ak



- n. 1. Widespread destruction or devastation.
- This morning we warily surveyed the **havoc** caused by yesterday's storm.
2. Great confusion.
- When the rabbits escaped from their cages, they created **havoc** in Mrs. Tsail's classroom.
-
- Describe for your partner what could create **havoc** in your classroom and how you would help fix the situation.

impregnable
im' preeg na bal

- adj.** Impossible to attack successfully.
- The citadel was **impregnable** because of its hilltop location and strong defenses.

indefatigable
in da fat' i ga bal

- adj.** Not easily made tired; tireless.
- Rescuers were **indefatigable** in their all-night efforts to reach the trapped miners.

onslaught
an' slot

- n. A fierce attack.
- The Union **onslaught** at Gettysburg stopped General Robert E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania.

phenomenon
fa' niam' a nian

- n. 1. Any fact or event that can be observed or described.
- The aurora borealis, or northern lights, is a **phenomenon** visible in the night sky in the far north.
2. An unusual fact, event, or person.
- Publishing her first novel when she was eighty-five made her a publishing **phenomenon**.



- phenomenal** **adj.** Extraordinary; very unusual.
- You must have a **phenomenal** memory to remember all those names after hearing them just once!
-
- Discuss with your partner a **phenomenon** you have read about.

picturesque
plik' char esk

- adj.** Like a picture; pleasing or charming to look at.
- My favorite painting was of a **picturesque** old cottage with roses climbing its walls.

simultaneous
si mal' ta' ne as



- adj.** Happening or existing at the same time.
- When the thunder and lightning are almost **simultaneous**, the storm is very close to you.
-
- Imagine with your partner about what might be happening in another universe, **simultaneous** to what you are doing right now.

stipulate
stip' yoo lat

- v. To require as part of an agreement or contract.
- My agreement with my coach **stipulates** that I need to keep a certain grade point average in order to stay on the team.

susceptible
sa sep' ta bal



- adj.** Open or subject to; easily influenced or affected by.
- Because I have hay fever, I am very **susceptible** to ragweed pollen.
-
- Pretend to yawn, and note if your partner is **susceptible** to it by seeing if he or she yawns, too.

wrest
rest



- v. 1. To pull away from with a twist.
Tanika **wrested** the ball from the player on the opposing team.
2. To take by force or as if by force.
The parents **wrested** control of the school board away from the previous members.
.....
Chat with your partner about what happens in a sport if someone on the other team wrests the ball from a player's hands.

19A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 19. Then write the sentence.

- (a) Feasible events are those
(b) that are copies of other events.
(c) that occur at the same time.
(d) Simultaneous events are those
- (a) a fierce attack.
(b) An onslaught is
(c) A bulwark is
(d) a demand greater than the supply.
- (a) be overwhelmed by something.
(b) To be indefatigable is to
(c) To be susceptible is to
(d) be easily affected by something.
- (a) is as pleasing as a picture.
(b) exists only in the imagination.
(c) An impregnable place is one that
(d) A picturesque place is one that
- (a) To create havoc is to
(b) To create a glut is to
(c) cause a temporary shortage.
(d) cause large-scale destruction.

19B

Just the Right Word

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

- The disagreements between the North and the South reached the point of **greatest intensity** in the Civil War.
- The council's plan to raise scholarship money seems likely to work if everyone helps with the event.
- Massive stones around the base of the shack made a **wall-like structure used for defense** against the shifting sand.
- My grandmother was **unwilling to give in to exhaustion** in her efforts to earn enough money to send me to camp.
- (a) obtain it with force.
(b) To wrest something is to
(c) To engulf something is to
(d) feed it more than it needs.
- (a) something that cannot be explained.
(b) something that offers protection.
(c) A phenomenon is
(d) A bulwark is
- (a) A glut of something is
(b) A culmination of something is
(c) its low point.
(d) an oversupply of it.
- (a) To engulf something
(b) To stipulate something
(c) is to be protected against it.
(d) is to insist on it.
- (a) A phenomenon is
(b) A culmination is
(c) something unusual or extraordinary.
(d) an unintended consequence or result.

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susceptible
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19C

Applying Meanings

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

- On which of the following could one **glut** oneself?
(a) food (c) shelter
(b) air (d) exercise
- Which of the following can be **simultaneous**?
(a) two places (c) two events
(b) two names (d) two sounds
- Which of the following could cause **havoc**?
(a) a reprisal (c) a mutiny
(b) a calamity (d) a deluge
- Which of the following would be **phenomenal**?
(a) living to be one hundred (c) shooting baskets
(b) memorizing the dictionary (d) swimming the Atlantic Ocean
- Which of the following could be **picturesque**?
(a) a panorama of mountains (c) a gruesome discovery
(b) a pastoral painting (d) a musical piece
- Rain in the desert is a **very unusual event** that shocks and pleases nomads.
- Denzel was so strong a swimmer that he escaped the wave that **swept over** him.
- Ravi's little sister **took by force** the remote control from his hand.
- Strawberry growers **supplied more than met the need** of the market, so we got strawberries for dessert in our school lunches.
- The Red Sox defeat caused a **great amount of confusion** in the bleachers.
- Li's position on the chess board was so strong that defeat was impossible.

19D

Word Study: Analogies

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter next to the pair you choose.

- IMPORTANT :: PARAMOUNT ::**
(a) bizarre :: usual (c) unkind :: malevolent
(b) avid :: lackadaisical (d) profound :: wisdom
- IMPECCABLE :: FLAW ::**
(a) pungent :: odor (c) prudent :: caution
(b) irascible :: patience (d) indefatigable :: anger
- GLIB :: SINCERITY ::**
(a) despicable :: dismay (c) ineane :: sense
(b) affluent :: wealth (d) immaculate :: forbearance
- PATRIARCH :: TRIBE ::**
(a) accord :: agreement (c) president :: company
(b) mind :: intellect (d) philanthropist :: gift
- INCESSANT :: PAUSE ::**
(a) interminable :: end (c) ineffectual :: effort
(b) balmy :: breeze (d) lively :: vitality
- POISON :: ANTIDOTE ::**
(a) pain :: agony (c) disease :: cure
(b) surmise :: conjecture (d) barter :: trade
- To which of the following can a person be **susceptible**?
(a) flattery (c) suggestions
(b) maladies (d) entreaties
- Which of the following can be **wrested** from someone?
(a) a rebuff (c) a football
(b) control (d) power
- Which of the following is **feasible**?
(a) walking across the country (c) controlling one's temper
(b) making a billion dollars (d) running a car on water

Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.

7. SIMULTANEOUS : TIME ::
 (a) voluminous : volume
 (b) rapid : speed
 8. GLUT : SCARCITY ::
 (a) tumult : turbulence
 (b) banter : brevity
 9. PUNGENT : NOSE ::
 (a) discern : eye
 (b) strident : ear
 10. STIPULATE : REQUIREMENT ::
 (a) respond : question
 (b) rectify : correct
 (c) vie : competition
 (d) bequeath : asset



The Thousand-Year Battle

What can a small country do if more than a quarter of its land lies below sea level, threatened continuously by inundation? How can it **wrest** control of the land from the sea so it can be used productively? For over a thousand years, the people of Holland worked **indefatigably** to accomplish this task. They succeeded by building a system of dikes—great walls of earth and rock—as a **bulwark** against the sea.

In 1953, however, a freak combination of unusually high tides and hurricane-force winds along the southwestern coast caused this system to break down. Unable to withstand the storm's **onslaught**, many dikes gave way. The sea poured through. It **engulfed** the land, flooding 450,000 acres. The disaster killed eighteen hundred people. It drove thousands more from their homes.

The Dutch responded to this renewed challenge from the sea with the Delta Project. This plan involved the construction of a complex system of greatly strengthened dikes and dams. Its most innovative feature was a gigantic barrier designed to seal off Holland's southern coast, the area most **susceptible** to flooding. Begun shortly after the 1953 flood, the five-billion-dollar Delta Project took over thirty years to build. It was opened officially on October 4, 1986, by Queen Beatrix.

bulwark	culminate
engulf	feasible
glut	havoc
impregnable	indefatigable
onslaught	phenomenon
picturesque	simultaneous
stipulate	susceptible
wrest	

To the Dutch people, the Delta Project seemed like the **culmination** of their thousand-year battle against the forces of nature. Having constructed an **impregnable** barrier against the sea, they could now declare victory. But within a very few years, they realized that their reclaiming and use of the land had created other problems.

As far back as the fifteenth century, the Dutch had relied on pumps to remove water from the ground. The **picturesque** windmills so often associated with the Dutch landscape provided the power to operate these pumps. Modern technology provided more efficient methods, which the Dutch also used. The removal of groundwater, however, lowered farther the level of the land, making it vulnerable again to flooding.

Simultaneously, another factor—one that has been noted worldwide in recent years—was an elevation in sea level. This **phenomenon** is a result of what is known as the "greenhouse effect." Carbon dioxide and other gases trapped in the upper layers of the atmosphere act like the glass in a greenhouse: They permit heat from the sun to pass through but prevent it from escaping. The result is global warming. The change in climate could melt polar ice, causing the sea level to rise two feet over the next hundred years. The Dutch faced other problems because of their intensive farming methods. They relied heavily on chemical fertilizers. These had played **havoc** with the environment, to such an extent that the stork, Holland's national symbol, had almost disappeared. In addition, the European Community, to which Holland belongs, faced a **glut** of agricultural products. It **stipulated** that its members take fifteen percent of their farmland out of production. As a result of these pressures, the Dutch arrived at a decision that once would have been completely unthinkable. It was clear that their extensive and unrelenting fight against nature was no longer **feasible**. Instead, they devised a plan to allow one-tenth of their farmland to revert to its natural state. Land once twenty feet below sea level that had been cultivated for a hundred years would again be underwater.

► 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 made the Dutch realize that the dikes were not **impregnable**?

2. How does the modern, efficient technology the Dutch use to pump water differ from the old-fashioned windmills?

3. Why did the high tides and strong winds do so much damage in 1953?

4. What is the meaning of **bulwark** as it is used in the passage?

5. What did the Dutch decide to do when they realized that their fight against nature was no longer **feasible**?

6. Why is Holland **susceptible** to flooding?

7. What did the Delta Project mean to the Dutch people?

8. What is the meaning of **phenomenon** as it is used in the passage?

9. For over a thousand years, how did the Dutch **wrest** control of the land from the sea?

10. How does the passage suggest that the Dutch have worked tirelessly?

11. How effective were the dikes against the freak storm of 1953?

12. What happened to Dutch farms when the dikes gave way?

13. What is the meaning of **havoc** as it is used in the passage?

14. Why did it become important for European countries to reduce their farmland?

15. Which group made Holland take some farmland out of production?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

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• In Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Mark Antony says, "Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war," as he realizes his assassination of Caesar will bring more bloodshed. This word has an interesting history. In Europe, during the early Middle Ages, when a band of robbers was about to lay waste to a village or other settlement, the leader would cry, "Havoc!" This was the signal to start the attack. The word originated among tribes in Germany and meant "take by force" or "plunder." The result of such plundering was widespread confusion and destruction. The word, later changed to **havoc**, entered the English language by way of the French

language and came to have its present meaning of "widespread devastation" or "destruction."
.....

• The Greek verb *phain* means "to appear." It forms the root of **phenomenon**, "an event that can be perceived by, or appears to, the senses." The correct plural of **phenomenon** is **phenomena**. (Among the *phenomena* we observed were an eclipse of the sun and a display of shooting stars.) Note, however, that in its meaning of "a rare or unusual event," **phenomenons** is also correct. (To have a musical genius in the family is rare, but to have two such **phenomenons** is almost unheard of.)

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