

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

aperture
ap' er chur

n. An opening or hole.
Tony could see an eye peering at him through a small **aperture** in the door.

cache
kash

n. 1. A hiding or storage place, especially for food or valuables.
A hollowed-out book provided a **cache** for the family's jewels.
2. Anything hidden or stored in such a place.
I found my sister's **cache** of marbles in the back of the closet.

combustible
kam bus' ti bal

adj. Capable of catching fire or burning.
Don't store **combustible** rags near the furnace.

delegate
del' a get

n. A person appointed to act on behalf of others; a representative.
Delegates from each section of the state attended the meeting on water conservation in the capital.
v. (del' a get) To assign or entrust to another.
Mr. Juarez **delegated** to Karen and me the task of lining up the music for our school dance.



Discuss with your partner how your teacher delegates tasks to students.

inclement
in klem' ant

adj. 1. Stormy.
We had such **inclement** weather on the scheduled day of our field trip to the zoo that we postponed it to the following week.
2. Harsh; not merciful.
The preschool teacher's decision to place the crying child in the corner of the room all morning seemed like an **inclement** action.



Talk with your partner about how you might react if you heard someone say something inclement to another person.

indelible
in del' a bal

adj. Not able to be erased; permanent.
The beauty of Venice made an **indelible** impression on the visitors.
Share with your partner an **indelible** image, good or bad, that has always stuck in your mind.



malady
mal' a de
n. A sickness or unhealthy condition.
Malaria is a **malady** prevalent in tropical areas.
Tell your partner about a malady that concerns you. How can you avoid it?

memoir
mem' wair

n. An account based on the author's personal experiences.
The Civil War anthology contains a moving **memoir** by a young Union officer.

paramount
par' a mount

adj. Most important; chief.
It is **paramount** that my mother receive this message before she leaves the house at 5:00 p.m.

rectify
rek' ta fi

v. To correct or adjust.
The teacher **rectified** his grading error on my mid-year project by adjusting my final grade.

requisite
rek' wa zit

adj. Required; necessary.
When Aunt Mercedes completes the **requisite** two-year course, she plans to become a travel agent.
n. Something that is required or necessary.
Our teacher always insists that a sharp pencil and a sharp mind are the two **requisites** for taking a test.
With your partner, list some requisite items you want to buy before starting high school.



squeamish
skwem' ish

adj. Easily made to feel upset or sick to the stomach.
There is no reason to feel **squeamish** about giving blood.

tract
trakt

n. 1. An area of land or water.
The students developed a **tract** of land in the center of the city for a vegetable garden.
2. A system of organs in the body that performs some function together.
The esophagus and stomach are part of the digestive **tract**.
3. A pamphlet, often expressing religious or political ideas, that seeks to persuade.
Volunteers handed out **tracts** on legal reform.



Your teacher assigns you to develop and hand out a tract. Chat with your partner about the subject you would like the tract to be about.

tribulation
trib yoo' la' shan

n. Great trouble or suffering.
The recession of 2008 caused much **tribulation** for those who lost their jobs.

vignette
vin yet'

n. A short sketch that provides a clear picture.
The movie begins with a series of **vignettes** about life in Los Angeles.
Share with your partner a vignette from your life up to today.



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) The liver is an important part of the digestive **tract**.
(b) The **tract** I picked up said the upcoming election was very important.
(c) The **tract** of land next to the park will become a children's playground.
(d) The athletes took one last sprint around the **tract** to warm up.
- (a) The game has been postponed due to the **inclement** weather.
(b) Playing video games was an **inclement** waste of time.
(c) A series of **inclement** Supreme Court decisions held back progress on civil rights.
(d) We agreed to study at the pleasant, **inclement** coffee shop.
- (a) My first sight of the Rockies left an **indelible** impression on me.
(b) Wipe away the **indelible** marker and start over.
(c) In the spring, the **indelible** air around the cherry trees smells lovely.
(d) The notes were written in **indelible** ink and cannot be erased.
- (a) I have no **memoir** of anything that happened to me before I was four.
(b) The celebrity wrote a lengthy **memoir** of her life.
(c) A **memoir** by the current president would be a huge best seller.
(d) The poor **memoir** outside is shivering in the cold.
- (a) The pirates hid the **cache** in an abandoned house.
(b) This week's **cache** will be about Maya Angelou's poetry.
(c) The **cache** of art works had been hidden since World War II.
(d) I was afraid I might fall and hurt my **cache**, so I climbed very carefully.
- (a) Dry wood and matches are a **combustible** combination.
(b) The food was healthy and quite **combustible** for the inexpensive price.
(c) Water with high lead content is **combustible** for humans.
(d) Anything **combustible** is banned from entering an aircraft.
- (a) History tells of the **tribulations** of the Jewish people over many centuries.
(b) Many **tribulations** flow into the mighty Amazon river.
(c) Mama refused to let life's **tribulations** wear her down.
(d) A Roman emperor offered **tribulations** to a victorious general.

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Making Connections

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

- Which word or words go with weather?
(a) blustery (b) balmy (c) inclement (d) paramount
- Which word or words go with sickness?
(a) affliction (b) delegate (c) malady (d) ailment
- Which word or words go with most important?
(a) requisite (b) paramount (c) squeamish (d) indelible
- Which word or words go with opening?
(a) delegate (b) tract (c) aperture (d) vignette
- Which word or words go with representative?
(a) antidote (b) advocate (c) delegate (d) requisite
- Which word or words go with necessary?
(a) inclement (b) imperative (c) immaculate (d) requisite
- (a) Charvi grew more **paramount** as examination day approached.
(b) A **paramount** concern was to get the brakes fixed before our departure.
(c) Sitting Bull was the **paramount** chief of the Lakota Native American tribe.
(d) A **paramount** objective of the debate club is to reverse its losing streak.
- (a) Unfortunately, my cousin **rectified** the car, but he wasn't hurt.
(b) The coach and the team captain tried to **rectify** the errors the team had made.
(c) The mayor vowed to **rectify** the situation.
(d) Ms. Nye **rectified** me when I call her Mrs. Nye.
- (a) Oona sat down and played a **malady** from a popular Broadway show.
(b) As people get older, they are susceptible to more **maladies**.
(c) The man claims to have a single cure for all **maladies**.
(d) The flu **malady** this year hasn't been so bad.

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18C

Determining Meanings

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

7. Which word or words go with *fussy*?
 (a) squeamish (b) fastidious (c) sporadic (d) combustible
 8. Which word or words go with *trouble*?
 (a) delegate (b) misfortune (c) tribulation (d) predicament
 9. Which word or words go with *danger*?
 (a) contagious (b) toxic (c) squeamish (d) combustible
 10. Which word or words go with *correct*?
 (a) memoir (b) rectify (c) vignette (d) precise
1. The **aperture**
 (a) enabled us to see what was going on outside.
 (b) made it possible for the water to remain cold.
 (c) swung open, leading to a narrow passageway.
 (d) let in just enough light for us to read the map.
 2. The **cache**
 (a) consisted of gold and twenty hundred-dollar bills.
 (b) promised to make anyone a millionaire who had a hundred dollars to invest.
 (c) of acorns hidden in the barn must have been left by squirrels.
 (d) of family photographs was at Grandma's house.
 3. A **requisite** for
 (a) additional money was rejected by the board.
 (b) travel abroad is a passport.
 (c) good health is regular exercise.
 (d) entry to college is a high school degree.
 4. The **delegate**
 (a) voted in accordance with her instructions from the White House.
 (b) to the United Nations was a former senator.
 (c) was read out in full before a large crowd.
 (d) from Tuvalu accused the American team of being disrespectful.

5. If you're **squeamish**, you
 (a) can eat something to tide you over until supper time.
 (b) should not watch the horror movie.
 (c) might have a problem watching the dissection.
 (d) should put on a sweater.

6. The **tract**
 (a) measures seven acres and will be sold by auction next Saturday.
 (b) was handed out on the street to provide information about the council meeting.
 (c) that makes digestion possible includes the pancreas and other organs.
 (d) of each planet can be predicted with great accuracy.

7. A **vignette**
 (a) of bandits riding into town firing pistols begins many Western movies.
 (b) of life in the royal palace was told to the visitors before the tour began.
 (c) at the service was performed by the celebrated pianist.
 (d) held up to the eye makes distant objects appear closer.

8. **Combustible**
 (a) mistakes are easily corrected.
 (b) materials should be kept away from flames.
 (c) foods that come straight out of a packet are Adrian's favorite.
 (d) lithium batteries need to be stored carefully when being transported.

Completing Sentences

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

1. An example of something **indelible** is _____.
2. A **memoir** is _____.
3. I think it is **paramount** that _____.
4. To **rectify** an error means to _____.
5. Something that makes me **squeamish** is _____.
6. One of my chores that I wish I could **delegate** is _____.
7. One of the worst **tribulations** I can imagine is _____.
8. A **malady** I have had is _____.
9. An example of **inclement** weather might be _____.
10. A **vignette** can be defined as a _____.

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Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.

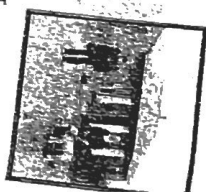
Prairie Women

One day in 1975, Joanna Stratton was exploring the attic in her grandmother's house in Topeka, Kansas, when she came across a large cache of yellowing documents stored in boxes. They turned out to be handwritten memoirs describing life on the Kansas frontier from the 1850s to the 1890s. They had been collected by Stratton's great-grandmother, Lilla Day Monroe. She herself had experienced the joys and tribulations of frontier life when her family had moved from Indiana to Kansas in 1884, as the frontier period was drawing to a close. Her family settled in Wakeeney on a treeless tract in the western part of the state. Monroe married and became an attorney; later, with her family, she moved to Topeka, where she practiced law and campaigned tirelessly for women's rights.

The hardships patiently borne by the Kansas pioneers remained fixed indelibly in her memory. By the early 1920s, Monroe became concerned that the vital role women had played would soon be forgotten because no written record of their experiences existed. She decided to rectify that by collecting personal, written passages from Kansas women who still remembered those days. As word of her project spread throughout the state, more and more women responded until Monroe had collected eight hundred first-hand accounts. They were filled with vivid vignettes of pioneer life on the Kansas frontier.

It was evident from these recollections that shelter was the paramount concern of new arrivals. For a family settling in the treeless western part of the state, a plow was the chief requisite. Drawn by oxen, horses, or humans, it prepared the land for farming and provided the only building material available—sods. These were solid blocks of earth cut from strips of soil. They were used for the walls and roofs of the one-room frontier homes. Emma Brown of Mitchell County recalled life with her children in a sod house during a period of inclement weather when her husband was away on a cattle drive. The dirt roof leaked, soaking everything inside. "How happy we were to have the sun shine out again," she wrote. She tells how she and the children carried everything outside to dry. "But, alas," her account goes on, "the next morning the rain was pouring down again." It continued for another week.

Emma Louisa Smith of South Sappa Creek pointed out another problem caused by the lack of timber. "There was not a tree or even a bush in sight



to furnish us with fuel." Fortunately, the early settlers discovered an unusual source: the dried dung of cattle and buffalo. It was both combustible and plentiful. The task of collecting it was one of the many that were delegated to the children. Emma Smith concluded that "the sod house and cow chips were two great factors in making possible the settlement of this country at so early a date."

Despite the need for every pair of hands to do a share of the work, the children's schooling was not neglected. Those who could read and write taught their children at home. Later, when local settlers organized schools, Emma Hardy conducted classes at Oak Creek in a dirt-floored schoolhouse built of sods. She wrote, "It had neither blackboard, teacher's desk, nor chairs. The seats were small logs split and supported by pegs." Two small apertures cut into one of the walls provided the only source of light. The dirt floor served as a chalkboard, with a long, pointed stick used to write letters and numbers.

Life on the frontier was not for the squeamish. There were no doctors, nurses, or hospitals. When women gave birth, usually no one but a neighbor was in attendance. With medical supplies difficult to obtain, maladies such as malaria had to run their course. Injuries were frequent, so residents in Kearny county were fortunate that a woman named Amy Loucks could act as surgeon when necessary. According to the account provided by her son, she closed wounds with fiddle string and a common needle. Once, "with a razor and her embryoidery scissors, she removed three fingers from the crushed hand of a railroad brakeman."

Lilla Day Monroe died in 1929 before she had completed her project. The manuscripts lay undisturbed in the attic of the family home for many years until Joanna Stratton came upon them. She had the pleasure of editing the writings and of bringing her great-grandmother's work to completion when, in 1981, *Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier* was published.

► 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 does the passage indicate that Monroe remembered her early life?

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2. What does Stratton's book contain?

3. What were the minimum requirements for teaching school at home?

4. Why was the plow of paramount importance to settlers on the prairie?

5. Why do you think it was necessary to dry the cow and buffalo dung?

6. How do you know that the old papers Stratton found were a surprise to her?

7. Which details in the passage suggest that the sod schoolhouses were rather dark?

8. How do you know that Amy Loucks was not squeamish?

9. What is one of the tribulations that the occupants of sod houses experienced?

10. How were most maladies treated by pioneer women?

11. How did Stratton rectify Monroe's failure to publish the book?

12. What is the meaning of **inclement** as it is used in the passage?

13. What were the sources for the information that appeared in Stratton's book?

14. Why do you think Stratton did not **delegate** the work of editing Monroe's papers?

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

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

- The Latin *rectus* means "straight" or "right" and forms the root of *rectangle*, a shape made of four straight lines with four right angles. The Latin *ficere* means "to make" and forms the root of *factory*, a place where things are made. The two Latin roots combine to make **rectify**. When we **rectify** something, we *make it right*.
- The French for "vine" is *vigne* and forms the root of the word **vignette**. The story of how these two terms came to be connected is an interesting one. It was once a common practice to place a decorative border on prints or the pages of books. The curling forms of grape vines and leaves, along with clusters of grapes, were often used for this purpose. These designs made little pictures in themselves. *Vignette*, therefore, came to be applied to any brief, descriptive sketch or a word picture.

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