

Word List

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

ascertain
as ar'tayn

v. To find out for certain.

Ms. Jenckes sent Tyrone to **ascertain** the cause of the delay.



Ask your partner to **ascertain** how many more minutes are left in class.

chastise
chas'tiz

v. 1. To punish by beating.

A hundred years ago disruptive students were **chastised** with a cane.

2. To rebuke or criticize severely.

It is embarrassing to be **chastised** in public.

cull
kul

v. To select and remove weak or inferior members from.

Game wardens **cull** the deer herd when it grows too large for the deer's food supply.

defer
de'fer

v. 1. To put off or postpone.

Timothy **deferred** his decision about which team to join until he could talk to the coaches.

2. To yield to out of respect for the knowledge or authority of another.

My uncle usually **defers** to my aunt, who is a doctor, when someone in the family is sick.

deference n. (def'ar'ans) Submitting to the wishes of another because of respect.

Our parents taught my brother and me to show **deference** to our elders.



Tell your partner about a **decision** or an **action** you wish you had **deferred** so you could think more about it.

desist
di'sist

v. To refrain from continuing something.

Our principal told us we must **desist** from talking in study hall.

discredit
dis'kred'it

v. 1. To hurt the reputation of.

Beckham was **discredited** when his own lies were found out.

2. To destroy confidence or trust in.

New scientific evidence often **discredits** earlier theories.



Talk with your partner about how you would feel if your hard work for a group project was **discredited**.

encroach
en'kroch

v. To advance little by little beyond the usual limits or boundaries.

We pruned the branches of the maple tree that **encroached** on our property.

foreboding
for'bod'ing

n. A strong feeling that something bad is about to happen.

It was with **foreboding** that we began to search for the missing kitten.

humane
hyoo'man'

adj. Compassionate, kind to other human beings or to animals.

What is **humane** treatment for a horse with a broken leg?



Discuss with your partner some humane actions you can take to help others less fortunate than you.

irrational
ir'ash'anal

adj. Lacking sound judgment; not governed by reason.

As she approached the house, Candace felt an **irrational** fear inside herself.



Share a completely **irrational** idea with your partner.

lurid
loor'id

adj. 1. Causing horror; extremely gruesome.

My parents will not give me permission to see that movie because of several **lurid** scenes it contains.

2. Glowing with the redness of flames seen through a haze.

The dense smog gave the rays of the setting sun a **lurid** cast.

perpetuate
per'pet'oo at

v. To cause to continue indefinitely.

Your negative attitude toward studying science just **perpetuates** your inability to get a good grade in the class.



Chat with your partner about how prejudice is often perpetuated from one generation to the next.

restive
res'tiv

adj. Showing impatience because of restrictions or delays.

We grew **restive** as we awaited permission to return to our flooded house.

stamina
stan'a na

n. Physical strength or courage to resist hardship, illness, or fatigue.

Jill claims that running five miles a day has built up her **stamina**.

surveillance
sar'va lyan

n. Close observation of a person or area.

Because of the recent incidents of vandalism, the police have put the high school under closer **surveillance**.



With your partner, take thirty seconds to do surveillance of your classroom, and then discuss what you observed.

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 15. Then write the sentence.

- (a) Is to find out about it. (c) Is to keep it a secret.
(b) To perpetuate something (d) To ascertain something
- (a) To discredit someone is to (c) borrow from that person.
(b) hurt that person's reputation. (d) To chastise someone is to
- (a) one that is enjoying a rest period. (c) one that is showing impatience.
(b) A restive group is (d) A humane group is
- (a) a lack of certainty. (c) a close watch on a subject.
(b) Surveillance is (d) Stamina is
- (a) criticize that person severely. (c) To defer to someone is to
(b) take that person's place. (d) To chastise someone is to
- (a) To perpetuate something (c) To cull something
(b) is to keep it going. (d) is to put it out of one's mind.
- (a) Foreboding is (c) doubt about something.
(b) Deference is (d) respect shown to another.
- (a) A lurid account (c) is one that is highly critical.
(b) An irrational account (d) is one that shocks or horrifies.

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Just the Right Word

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

- That **glowing reddish** light in the night sky was caused by a burning haystack.
- How can we **find out for certain** the time that Doug left the house?
- The large number of dropouts from our high school **shows that it is impossible to trust** this enthusiastic report on progress.
- Swimming laps every morning builds up one's **ability to withstand fatigue**.
- Keeping dogs in such small cages is not **caring and compassionate**.
- The suburbs continue to **move gradually beyond their borders** onto good farmland.
- Dairy farmers usually **select and remove** those cows that produce the least milk and sell them.
- After a conference with my coach, I was willing to **yield out of respect** to his suggestions.
- Everyone in the family worried that grandfather had been **quite incapable of thinking clearly and logically** when he sold his house without consulting any of them.
- (a) express one's feelings strongly. (c) To encroach is to
(b) refrain from continuing (d) To desist is to something.
- (a) Foreboding is (c) an uneasy feeling about what might happen.
(b) Stamina is (d) the ability to predict future events.

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lurid
perpetuate
restive
stamina
surveillance

15C

Applying Meanings

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

10. We hope the camera we installed will **observe** very closely whatever is going through our trash at night.

- Which of the following can be **deferred**?
 - a final decision
 - payment
 - the first day of spring
 - one's retirement
- Which of the following might fill one with **foreboding**?
 - an anonymous threat
 - a strange noise
 - an affable teacher
 - a malevolent classmate
- Which of the following can be **ascertained**?
 - the price of a car
 - the age of Earth
 - the details of a dream
 - the weight of a diamond
- Which of the following can be **irrational**?
 - behavior
 - people
 - fear
 - heat
- Which of the following can be **lurid**?
 - the sky
 - a novel
 - a dialect
 - a fanfare
- Which of the following might become **restive**?
 - a loose boulder
 - a bored audience
 - an irksome task
 - a small child
- For which of the following would one need **stamina**?
 - succumbing to an injury
 - contemplating nature
 - cycling across the country
 - making a cake
- Which of the following can be **discredited**?
 - an explanation
 - a rumor
 - a claim
 - a report

15D

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.

- MILLENNIUM : CENTURY ::
 - winter : summer
 - space : time
 - kilometer : mile
 - decade : year
- PLEASANT : SUBLIME ::
 - plain : ornate
 - sore : excruciating
 - healthy : sick
 - brief : concise
- SCOLD : CHASTISE ::
 - echo : reverberate
 - depart : embark
 - praise : flonize
 - increase : augment
- PATIENT : RESTIVE ::
 - serene : turbulent
 - brief : concise
 - bizarre : inane
 - gruesome : grotesque
- FOREBODING : MEMORY ::
 - claustrophobia : space
 - inkling : suspicion
 - future : past
 - imagination : reality
- PERPETUATE : HALT ::
 - depict : illustrate
 - deter : discourage
 - encroach : withdraw
 - defer : yield
- LUMINOUS : LIGHT ::
 - tasty : tongue
 - audible : sound
 - sunny : day
 - starry : night
- ENTHUSIASM : MANIA ::
 - serenity : turmoil
 - defiance : mutiny
 - doctor : patient
 - health : pestilence
- CONGENIAL : SMILE ::
 - contagious : disease
 - ardent : ardor
 - synonymous : name
 - angry : frown
- BARTER : GOODS ::
 - exchange : greetings
 - create : art
 - play : sports
 - perform : audience

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Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?

Early American settlers, alone at night in their log cabins, far from their nearest neighbors, must have had a sense of **foreboding** as they heard the howling of wolves in the darkness. Lurid stories of savage attacks on humans had fired their imaginations; they believed that the wolf was a ferocious beast who made unprovoked attacks on humans. Phrases such as "keeping the wolf from the door" and tales like "Little Red Riding Hood" may have **perpetuated** this misunderstanding.

This fear of wolves is quite **irrational**. Wolves do kill to live, but they seldom kill humans. Most stories of wolves attacking humans have been **discredited** by those who have studied the subject. One researcher investigating the behavior of arctic wolves in northern Canada removed a

pup from its mother and took it into a nearby tent. Even though the mother became **restive**, she waited outside the tent until the pup was returned to her.

The truth is that wolves are quite wary of humans, if not completely afraid, and with good reason. During the last several hundred years, humans have **encroached** on their habitats. Trapping, shooting, and poisoning almost completely eliminated wolves from the lower forty-eight states. By the 1970s, the gray wolf, also known as the timber wolf, was found on the North American continent only in the northern United States and Canada.

In the last several decades, however, attitudes toward wolves have changed. People have realized that these creatures might not survive without human help. They have actively supported plans to reestablish wolves in wilderness areas where they once flourished. During the late 1980s, red wolves were successfully returned to regions of the southeastern United States where they once lived. In 1995, a three-year project to reintroduce gray wolves to one of their original habitats began in Yellowstone National Park.

To make sure these projects succeed, scientists and wildlife specialists have been studying wolves extensively. To gather information, they catch individual animals in **humane** traps, then fit them with collars containing radio transmitters before releasing them. These transmitters help the scientists **ascertain** the movements of wolf packs. Other observers keep the animals under **surveillance** from aircraft flying overhead.

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► 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 wolves keep herds of deer and other animals healthy?

2. How have the actions of humans toward wolves changed in the last thirty years?

From their observations, scientists know that a wolf pack usually consists of five to fifteen animals. The pack may need anywhere from forty to four hundred square miles in order to maintain itself. The area they require depends on the number of wolves in the pack and the amount of game available. In their continual search for food, wolves demonstrate tremendous **stamina**; they can maintain a steady pace for hours at a time if necessary. They show amazing intelligence as they work in close cooperation with each other while hunting. Their prey includes elk, moose, caribou, and deer. By **culling** herds of old or sick animals, wolves perform a valuable service. They strengthen the herd by leaving more grazing areas for the remaining animals. If a herd becomes much reduced, wolves will **desist** from preying on it until its size has increased to a normal level.

Wolves usually mate for life. They are very protective of their young, caring for them until they are fully grown at about two years. A strict social order is maintained within the pack. All **defer** to the leader, who alone decides when and where to hunt.

Scientists have observed that wolves communicate in various ways. Whimpering indicates restlessness or hunger; snarling is used to put members of the pack in their place if they become too assertive. A snarling wolf is like a parent chastising an unruly child. And what about the howling in the night that struck terror into the American settlers' hearts? It was probably a warning to other wolves that the wolves' scent had been detected and they were invading territory that was already occupied. It did not mean that an attack on humans was imminent. As a Canadian trapper is once supposed to have said, "Anyone who says he's been bit by a wolf is a liar."

3. What is the meaning of **discredited** as it is used in the passage?

4. How might the mother wolf who had her pup taken away have communicated that she was **festive**?

5. Why would it be inaccurate to say that all members of a wolf pack treat each other as equals?

6. Why might it be **irrational** to fear wolves today?

7. What is the meaning of **chastise** as it is used in the passage?

8. Why were people's **forebodings** unnecessary when they heard wolves howl?

9. How do researchers **ascertain** information about wolves today?

10. Why do you think **surveillance** of wolf-pack movements would be easier in winter?

11. Why are tales like "Little Red Riding Hood" unfair to wolves?

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

13. What is one possible reason for wolves howling?

14. What is required of a **humane** trap for catching wolves?

15. What physical quality do wolves have that makes them good hunters?

FUN & Fascinating FACTS

- One very well-known line of poetry is Alexander Pope's "To err is human, to forgive divine." However, what he actually wrote was, "To err is humane, to forgive divine." In the early eighteenth century, when the line was written, *human* and *humane* did not have separate meanings. This is no longer the case. *Human* refers to any quality—good, bad, or neutral—associated with human beings. (The *human* voice has a range of about two octaves.) *Humane* is restricted to those qualities that express sympathy for other creatures. (The law requires the *humane* treatment of animals in captivity.)
- In Greek mythology, the three fates were goddesses who controlled the length of human life. They were Clotho, who spun the thread of life; Lachesis, who measured its length; and Atropos, who cut it. The Greek word for thread is *stemon*, which passed into Latin as *stamina*, the plural of which is *stamina*. Those who lived a long time were believed to have lengthy *stamina*, or "threads of life." Because people who lived to an old age were believed to have physical strength and endurance, *stamina* came to have these meanings. Note that although *stamina* is a plural form in Latin, in English *stamina* is treated as a singular noun.