

Lesson 14

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

afford
ə fɔrd'

v. 1. To be able to pay for.

Can you **afford** a new pair of running shoes?

2. To be able to do.

When you're on the soccer team, you can't **afford** to miss a night's sleep.

3. To give; to provide.

Music **affords** me much pleasure.

boast
bəʊst

v. 1. To talk with too much pride in oneself or in what one owns or has done; to brag. Ben **boasted** about all the games he had won.

2. To have and to take a proper pride in having.

San Francisco **boasts** one of the finest bridges in the world, the Golden Gate Bridge.

n. An act of boasting.

"It was just a **boast**," Julio said. "I can't really run five miles."

chord
kɔrd

n. Three or more notes of music played together.

Becca played a few **chords** on the guitar.

exceptional
ɪk sɪp'ʃənəl

adj. Unusually good.

The batik cloth was of **exceptional** quality.

fortunate
fɔ' tʃənət

adj. Lucky.

You are **fortunate** to have such kind friends.

fringe
frɪnj

n. 1. An edge made of short lengths of material such as thread, used to decorate clothes, curtains, etc.

My skirt had a **fringe** down the side.

2. An outside edge.

At the concert, I stood at the **fringe** of the crowd.

humble
hʌm' bəl

adj. 1. Plain and simple.

Abraham Lincoln was raised in a **humble** log cabin.

2. Not proud; modest.

In her **humble** speech of thanks, the new mayor said she would need all the help she could get.

v. To bring down to defeat.

Our soccer team **humbled** Newton High with a score of seven goals to one.

meadow
me' dəʊ

n. A field of grass or wildflowers.

In the middle of the **meadow** stood a cow and its calf.

melancholy
me' lən kəl ē

adj. Filled with sorrow; very sad.

The movie was so sad it left me in a **melancholy** mood.

n. A state of sadness.

His **melancholy** began to affect my mood and I grew more and more dejected.

obstinate
 30' sɪə'neɪt

adj. Not willing to give in; stubborn.
 You can't persuade him to do anything—he's too **obstinate**.

plead
 plɪəd

v. 1. To ask for something that is felt to be very important; to beg.
 The family **pleaded** with reporters to leave them alone.
 2. To respond to a charge by a court of law.
 The prisoner said he wished to **plead** not guilty.

plunge
 plʌndʒ

v. 1. To throw oneself into.
 We **plunged** into the pool and swam a few laps.
 2. To push or force quickly.
 I **plunged** the spade into the earth.
 3. To drop sharply.
 The price of land near the new dump **plunged** last year.
n. A sudden dive or fall.
 My spirits took a **plunge** when I saw the first page of the test.

relent
 rɪ'leɪnt

v. To become less strict.
 My parents finally **relented** and said I could go to the concert.

submit
 sʌb'mɪt

v. 1. To give to someone to look over or decide about.
 Each student is asked to **submit** a picture for the yearbook.
 2. To give in to someone or something.
 My sister was always telling me what to do, but I refused to **submit** to her.

trudge
 ˈtrʌdʒ

v. To walk slowly and heavily, as though with great effort.
 We had to **trudge** through deep snow to reach the door.

14A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 14. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) Fortunate people
 (b) Humble people

(c) are not vain.
 (d) change their minds easily.

2. (a) three or more notes played together.
 (b) an edging of short lengths of material.

(c) A plunge is
 (d) A chord is

3. (a) A fortunate person is one
 (b) who is lucky.

(c) who suffers from poor health.
 (d) A melancholy person is one

4. (a) A boast is
(b) A meadow is

- (c) a grassy field.
(d) a steep hill.

5. (a) beg for something.
(b) deny something.

- (c) To plead is to
(d) To submit is to

6. (a) To boast a fine sports stadium
(b) To afford a fine sports stadium

- (c) is to take good care of it.
(d) is to take pride in it.

7. (a) An exceptional student is one who
(b) An obstinate student is one who

- (c) is very lucky.
(d) has great ability.

8. (a) a sharp drop.
(b) a change of mind.

- (c) A plunge is
(d) A fringe is

9. (a) give it to someone for approval.
(b) To afford something is to

- (c) To submit something is to
(d) be ashamed of it.

10. (a) Obstinate people
(b) Melancholy people

- (c) are unable to make up their minds.
(d) are unwilling to change their minds.

afford

boast

chord

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relent

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trudge

14B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 14.

1. Raoul had no choice but to **give in** to his parents' rules.
2. After you **say**, when asked by the judge, **that you are not guilty**, the trial will begin.
3. Our first apartment was **plain and simple**, but we loved it.
4. It was Aunt Oona's **proud claim** that she could run two miles in twelve minutes.

5. At first Mom said we couldn't ride our bikes to the movies, but after thinking it over she **changed her mind and said that we could.**
6. Neema and Bill **walked slowly and with much effort** up the steep path to the top of Corey Hill.
7. The crowd gasped as the Olympic swimmer **dived suddenly** into the pool.
8. I prefer the tan lampshade with the **edge of short lengths of thread sewn on for decoration.**
9. We were all wondering how Alisa could **spare the money** for all those new clothes.
10. The second movement of the Brahms symphony fills me with **feelings of great sadness.**

Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below.
A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might a person **boast** about?
(a) cheating
(b) losing
(c) winning
(d) failing
2. Which of the following might make a person feel **fortunate**?
(a) having good health
(b) having kind parents
(c) living in a free country
(d) getting free tickets to the circus
3. Which of the following might have a **fringe**?
(a) a crowd
(b) a lake
(c) a blanket
(d) a story
4. Which of the following might be too much for most people to **afford**?
(a) to go on a trip around the world
(b) to spare some time
(c) to miss a meal
(d) to buy a sports car
5. Which of the following can be **humble**?
(a) a person
(b) a cottage
(c) a speech
(d) a palace

6. Which of the following might you find in a **meadow**?

- (a) cows
- (b) picnickers
- (c) wildflowers
- (d) skyscrapers

7. Which of the following might a person **plead** for?

- (a) more help
- (b) more money
- (c) mercy
- (d) misfortune

8. Which of the following can **plunge**?

- (a) the temperature
- (b) the price of a house
- (c) a rock
- (d) the age of a house

14D Word Study

The suffix *-able* changes a verb into an adjective. Change each verb below into an adjective by adding this suffix to the word. Note that in words that end with the letters *y* or *e*, you must change the final letter to *i* before adding the suffix.

1. depend _____
2. vary _____
3. remark _____
4. prefer _____
5. afford _____
6. desire _____

afford
boast
chord
exceptional
fortunate
fringe
humble
meadow
melancholy
obstinate
plead
plunge
relent
submit
trudge

The suffix *-ment* changes a verb to a noun. Change each verb below into a noun by adding this suffix to the word.

7. entertain _____
8. replace _____
9. nourish _____
10. equip _____
11. achieve _____
12. resent _____

How Water Lilies Began

This is a folktale from Wales, a small country west of England. It tells how water lilies came to grow in a lake in the Welsh mountains. It was all because of Huw, a farmer's son who loved to play the harp and never went to school. Huw lived with his mother in a **humble** cottage by the side of a mountain. Every morning, he drove his mother's black and white cows up the mountain, where they spent the day in a **meadow** by the side of the lake.

One day, Huw took his harp and played a few **chords** as he watched over the herd. To his astonishment, six silver cows rose out of the water, drawn by the music. Their coats gleamed in the sunlight as they gathered around Huw and listened to him play. They stayed with the herd all day, following the rest of the cows back to the farm that evening. Huw's mother felt very **fortunate** to have such fine new cows. She **boasted** to her neighbors that they gave twice as much milk as the black and white ones. And, she added, the milk was of **exceptional** quality.

All went well until one of the silver cows stopped giving milk. After waiting a few days, Huw's mother told the butcher to come the next day and take the cow away. Huw **pleaded** with his mother to spare the animal, but she wouldn't **relent**. She told Huw that they couldn't **afford** to have even one cow eating grass and giving nothing in return. The boy knew how **obstinate** his mother could be once her mind was made up, but he argued with her for as long as he dared. When his mother told him to be quiet, he knew he had no choice but to **submit** to her will.

The next morning, as he **trudged** up the mountain, Huw could think of nothing but the beautiful silver cow that was going to be sold. The music he played on his harp that day became increasingly **melancholy** until at last, his eyes filled with tears, he could play no more. He stood up and threw his harp into the lake. At once a strange thing happened. The six silver cows ran to the edge of the lake and **plunged** in. They were never seen again.

Soon masses of silver water lilies began to grow all along the **fringes** of the lake where the silver cows had jumped in. They still grow there today. Huw's mother died long ago, and Huw is now an old man. If you should meet him and tell him you don't believe this story, he will be happy to take you up the mountain and show you the beautiful silver water lilies.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. Why might it be easy to pick the water lilies that grew in the lake?
2. How did the music Huw played match his mood?

3. What is the meaning of **afford** as it is used in the passage?
4. How can you tell that Huw's family was not wealthy?
5. How can you tell from the narrative that Huw's mother was not a shy person?
6. Where did Huw and the cows go every day?
7. What did the silver cows seem to be responding to?
8. Why was milk from the silver cows worth more than milk from the other cows?
9. Why did Huw's mother feel **fortunate** to have the silver cows?
10. How can you tell from the passage that Huw was unwilling to defy his mother?
11. What did Huw do when his mother said the butcher would take the cow?
12. Did Huw's mother agree to do what he asked?
13. What does the word **trudged** suggest about Huw's feelings as he went up the mountain?

14. Why was it a waste of time for Huw to argue with his mother?

15. What was the last glimpse that Huw had of the silver cows?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Chord has another meaning in addition to the one given. In geometry, a *chord* is a straight line joining any two points on a circle.

Cord and **cord** are homophones. **Cord** is thick string or twine. It is also a unit of measurement; a *cord* of firewood is a stack that measures eight feet by four feet by four feet.

In the Middle Ages, over five hundred years ago, people believed that the human body contained four different kinds of fluids, called *humors*. The four

humors were blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. When these were in balance, a person was said to be in good humor; when they were out of balance, a person's mood was affected. Too much blood made a person *sanguine*, or cheerful (the Latin word for blood is *sanguis*). Too much phlegm made a person *phlegmatic*, or slow to respond. Too much yellow bile, called *choleric*, made a person *choleric*, or angry. Too much black bile, called *melancholic*, made a person **melancholy**, or unhappy.