

Lesson 15

Word List

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

apparent

ə par' ənt

adj. 1. Clear.

It's **apparent** that no one's home.

2. Seeming or appearing to be.

The **apparent** cause of increase in the price of lettuce was the spring freeze.

ban

ban

v. To forbid, especially by passing a law or making a rule.
The hospital **bans** children from visiting patients.

n. A law or rule that forbids something.

There is a **ban** on wearing hats in class.

concentrate

kən' sən trāt

v. 1. To focus all one's thoughts or efforts on.
It's hard for me to **concentrate** on homework when I hear the kids outside.

2. To bring or come together in one place.
Factories were **concentrated** along the east side of the Harlem River.

concentration (kən sən trā' shən) n. Giving total attention to something.
Don't sing! It ruins my **concentration**.

concentrated adj. Of increased strength or thickness.
For breakfast, mix one part of **concentrated** orange juice to three parts water.

concern

kən sɜrn'

v. 1. To be about; to interest.
Homelessness is a subject that should **concern** everyone.

2. To trouble or worry.
My parents are **concerned** about my brother's health.

n. 1. Something that involves a person or people.
Health care is a big **concern** for most people.

2. A business organization.
After college she got a job with a banking **concern**.

consider

kən si' dər

v. 1. To think about carefully.
Since my teaching job is a temporary one, it's time to **consider** what I should do next.

2. To take into account.
Please **consider** my feelings when you comment on the story I wrote.

3. To believe.
I may only be seventeen, but I **consider** myself an adult.

contrast

kən trɑst'

v. 1. To compare in order to show the differences.
Before deciding on the design for the new gym, we are going to **contrast** the two suggested plans.

2. To show differences when compared.
His actions **contrast** greatly with his words.

n. (kən' trɑst) A difference.
Our new apartment is a welcome **contrast** to our old one.

fragile
frá' jál

adj. Easily broken or damaged.
This antique chair is so **fragile** that it would break if anyone sat on it.

menace
mè' nàs

n. Something that is likely to do harm or is regarded as dangerous.
Icebergs are a **menace** to ships in the North Atlantic.
v. To be a danger to; to put at risk.
The approaching hurricane **menaces** the entire South Carolina coast.

pounce
pouns

v. To swoop down on and seize.
The cat **pounced** on the mouse as soon as it ventured from its hole.

prompt
prámpt

adj. Quick; without too much time passing.
I sent a **prompt** reply to Ahmed's letter.
v. To cause to act.

Seeing ants all over the counter **prompted** me to spend the afternoon cleaning the kitchen.

recent
rè' sànt

adj. Of a time just before the present.
The **recent** outbreak of measles resulted in the temporary closing of our school.

symbol
sim' bəl

n. Something that stands for something else.
The dove is a **symbol** of peace.

talon
tá' lán

n. The claw of a bird, usually one that kills animals for food.
The hawk clutched its victim firmly in its **talons**.

trophy
tró' fē

n. Something, as a prize or award, given to show success in an activity.
The Heisman **trophy** is a top football honor.

widespread
wid' spred'

adj. 1. Spread or stretched out over a large area.
The **widespread** wings of the condor can reach ten feet from tip to tip.
2. Happening or found over a large area.
There was **widespread** frost last night.

15A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 15. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) total attention.
(b) a lack of interest.

- (c) Concern is
(d) Concentration is

2. (a) An apparent winner is
(b) one who always wins.

- (c) A recent winner is
(d) one who seems to have won.

3. (a) A concern is
(b) A symbol is
(c) a business organization.
(d) something that is likely to do harm.
4. (a) To concentrate things is to
(b) become scarce.
(c) To pounce is to
(d) bring them together in one place.
5. (a) took place a short time ago.
(b) A recent storm is one that
(c) A widespread storm is one that
(d) lasted for just a short time.
6. (a) A contrast is
(b) an unintended result.
(c) a rule that forbids something.
(d) A ban is
7. (a) To prompt something is
(b) To menace something is
(c) to be a danger to it.
(d) to allow it to happen.
8. (a) to show how they differ.
(b) To contrast two things is
(c) To consider two things is
(d) to prefer one over the other.
9. (a) found all over.
(b) broken into pieces.
(c) Something that is widespread is
(d) Something that is fragile is
10. (a) To prompt something is to
(b) take it into account.
(c) To consider something is to
(d) forbid it.
11. (a) A trophy is
(b) A symbol is
(c) something that stands for something else.
(d) an animal's claw.

apparent

ban

concentrate

concern

consider

contrast

fragile

menace

pounce

prompt

recent

symbol

talon

trophy

widespread

5B 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 15.

1. My grandmother's teacups are too **easily broken** to use every day.
2. The kitten **leaped through the air and landed** on the ball of yarn.
3. What was the reason you to embrace the idea of becoming a writer?
4. The eagle's sharp, **curved claws** grasped the fish and lifted it out of the water.
5. Her golfing **award for victory** was the thing she took great pride in.
6. Chapter 5 points out the **differences between** school life today and that of a century ago.
7. **Keep your mind only** on your driving and forget about looking at the scenery.
8. Have you **given any thought to** trading in your old car for a new one?
9. My grandmother's future is a subject that **is of great interest to** my parents.

5C 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 is a **recent** event?
(a) this morning's breakfast (c) last night's supper
(b) your grandparents' wedding (d) your first day at school
2. Which of the following is **fragile**?
(a) a baseball bat (c) a gold ring
(b) a glass ornament (d) a tree limb
3. Which of the following might cause **concern**?
(a) a toothache (c) a hurricane warning
(b) rising prices (d) a furious customer
4. Which of the following could be a **menace** to drivers?
(a) icy roads (c) speed limits
(b) thick fog (d) seat belts

5. Which of the following might **pounce** on another animal?
 (a) an elephant
 (b) an eagle
 (c) a tiger
 (d) a mouse
6. Which of the following is a **symbol** of the United States?
 (a) the stars and stripes
 (b) the Statue of Liberty
 (c) the bald eagle
 (d) the Liberty bell
7. For which of the following might you be given a **trophy**?
 (a) taking care of a little sister
 (b) winning a tennis match
 (c) catching the biggest fish
 (d) catching a cold
8. Which of the following might do **widespread** damage?
 (a) a flood
 (b) a hurricane
 (c) a leaky roof
 (d) an earthquake

15D Word Study

The prefix *con-* or *com-* means "with" or "together."

Fill in the first set of blanks with the correct form of the prefix *con-* or *com-* in each word below, and fill in the second set with a word that completes the meaning. All except the last two words are from this or previous lessons.

- _____trast to compare one thing _____ another
- _____centrate to bring or come _____ in one place
- _____municate to be in touch _____
- _____plete _____ nothing missing
- _____cern to have to do _____
- _____fuse to mix one thing up _____ another
- _____sider to think over _____ care
- _____tract to draw closer _____
- _____plain to find fault _____
- _____nect to join one thing _____ another

apparent
 ban
 concentrate
 concern
 consider
 contrast
 fragile
 menace
 pounce
 prompt
 recent
 symbol
 talon
 trophy
 widespread

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows.

The Fall and Rise of the Bald Eagle

For over two hundred years, the bald eagle has been the **symbol** of America, with the likeness of this powerful bird found on our coins and on the Great Seal of the United States. Two hundred years ago, bald eagles were found throughout North America, but by the 1970s, there were very few left outside of Alaska. The only creatures that **menace** the bald eagle are human beings. Why were there so few of these birds left? What are they like?

The bald eagle is a large, powerful bird that is not really bald. It gets its name from its white-feathered head, which **contrasts** strongly with the rest of its brown-feathered body. When it flies, it looks strong, powerful, and as if it is a master of the air. Its keen vision, great **talons**, and large, strongly hooked beak equip the bald eagle to live by hunting. In its search for small animals and fish, which form the greater part of its diet, it will sometimes **pounce** on a small lamb or piglet. Because of this, ranchers and farmers waged war on bald eagles for hundreds of years, killing them in large numbers. In addition, hunters shot them in order to have them stuffed as **trophies**.

In the 1950s, it became **apparent** that there was a sharp drop in the number of bald eagles. The reason for this was soon discovered. The eagles' eggs were **fragile** and broke easily, killing the young chicks inside. The cause of the thin shells remained unknown for a number of years. Finally, the mystery was solved by a scientist named Rachel Carson.

Rachel Carson was **concerned** about the use of pesticides, chemicals used to kill insects that damage crops. In 1962, she wrote a book called *Silent Spring* that showed how some chemicals were harming the nation's wildlife. The book explained the cause of the thin eagle shells: it was DDT, a pesticide that had been in **widespread** use in the United States for over ten years. DDT had become **concentrated** in lakes and streams. Once it was in the water, it poisoned fish. The DDT in the fish that the bald eagles ate caused the birds to lay eggs with thin shells that broke easily.

Rachel Carson hoped that Congress would act **promptly** to end the use of DDT and save the national bird. But it was not until 1973 that Congress passed a law **banning** the use of DDT. In the same year, it also passed a law that made it a crime to harm certain birds and animals, including the bald eagle, that were **considered** to be in danger.

Gradually, the bald eagle's numbers began increasing. A **recent** count revealed that there were over ten thousand pairs of bald eagles in the United States. In 2007, this grand bird was removed from the national list of animals in danger of dying out. Laws continue to protect the bald eagle, however, and it is still illegal to harm eagles and their eggs.

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. When would a farmer be most likely to kill a bald eagle?
2. When did we find out that the bald eagle was in danger of dying out?

3. What was the reason for the drop in the number of bald eagles.

4. Explain why this story of the bald eagle has a happy ending.

5. Why did the bald eagle have good reason to fear human beings?

6. How does the bald eagle capture its food?

7. How did Rachel Carson show her **concern** about what was happening to the nation's wildlife?

8. What happened to DDT after it had been sprayed on crops?

9. Where was DDT used?

10. What did some hunters do with the bald eagles they shot?

11. What is the meaning of **considered** as it is used in the passage?

12. Why was it important for Congress to act **promptly**?

13. What did Congress finally do?

14. How did the bald eagle get its name?

15. Why does a picture of the bald eagle appear on the Great Seal of the United States?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

When the Apollo astronauts returned to Earth, they brought back *fragments* of rocks from the moon. The word means “parts that are broken off,” and comes from the Latin *fractus*, which means “broken.” Several other English words are formed from this same Latin root. If you break a bone, you have a *fracture*. If you break down the number 1 into smaller parts, such as halves or quarters, you get *fractions*. Finally, something that is **fragile** is easily broken.

When a stage actor forgets the next line, which is every actor's nightmare, a person off to the side may

prompt him or her by saying it aloud. The *prompter* must say the line loud enough for the actor to hear but not so loud that the audience hears. If the audience does hear the prompter, the play usually gets an unintended laugh.

A *cymbal* is a musical instrument; it is one of a pair of brass plates that are struck together to make a ringing sound. This word and **symbol** are homophones, words that sound alike but have different meanings and different spellings.