

Lesson 16

Word List

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

apt
apt

adj. 1. Suited to; fitting.

"The Stilt" was an **apt** nickname for seven-foot-one-inch basketball star Wilt Chamberlain.

2. Likely or almost certain.

I am **apt** to do better on Spanish tests if I make vocabulary cards to study.

blossom
blɒsəm

n. A flower.

The white orange **blossom** stands out against the dark-green foliage.

v. 1. To come into bloom.

Dogwood trees **blossom** in May.

2. To develop.

After two years of playing bit parts, she **blossomed** into a star of the Broadway stage.

bough
baʊ

n. A large branch or limb of a tree.

The **boughs** of the apple tree were heavy with fruit.

content
kən'tent

adj. Happy with what one has; satisfied.

Give me a good book and a comfortable armchair and I am **content**.

contentment *n.* A state of being satisfied and at peace.

After a delicious dinner and a hot bath, I relaxed in total **contentment**.

detest
di'test

v. To dislike strongly; to hate.

Many Germans **detested** Hitler, but were afraid to speak out.

detestable *adj.* Causing or deserving strong dislike.

His racist views are **detestable**.

dusk
dʌsk

n. The time at the end of the day just before dark.

The streetlights go on at **dusk**.

extinguish
ek'stɪŋ'gwiʃ

v. To put out, as a fire or a light.

The sign at the campsite said, "Before leaving, make sure you **extinguish** your campfire."

familiar
fə'mil'jər

adj. 1. Often seen or experienced; known.

I was happy to see a **familiar** face in the crowd.

2. Having a good knowledge of.

Dan read about it in the newspaper and is **familiar** with the case.

obtain
əb'teɪn

v. To gain or get by making an effort.

We were lucky to **obtain** tickets for the jazz concert because they sold out very quickly.

orchard
ɔr'chəd

n. A place where fruit trees grow.

Every fall my brother and I go to an **orchard** where you can pick your own apples.

practice
prak' tis

- v. 1. To say or do over and over in order to get better at something. If you **practice** Spanish every day, you should be able to get along when you go to Mexico.
 2. To do; carry on, perform.
He was raised from an early age to **practice** politeness.
 3. To work at as a profession.
Aunt Marianna is licensed to **practice** law in both California and Nevada.
- n. 1. A repeated action or usual way of doing something.
It's my mother's **practice** to swim thirty laps every morning.
 2. The work of a profession.
The **practice** of medicine has recently undergone many changes.

prune
pru:n

- v. To cut off branches.
We had to **prune** the shrubs so we could see out of the window.
- n. A dried plum.
Elijah usually soaks the **prunes** overnight and serves them for breakfast.

stout
staut

- adj. 1. Heavily built; thickset.
He used to be thin, but he grew **stout** as he got older.
 2. Strong; not easily bent or broken.
The roof of the barn was supported by six **stout** posts.

threadbare
'θred' beə

- adj. Shabby and worn-out.
The **threadbare** blankets on the bed failed to keep us warm during the night.

wander
wɑ:n' dər

- v. 1. To go from place to place with no plan or purpose in mind.
We **wandered** around downtown, waiting for the post office to open.
2. To slip easily off the subject; to fail to work in a normal way.
Luis tried to concentrate on his math homework, but his mind began to **wander**.

16A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 16. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A blossom is
(b) A practice is

- (c) the work of a profession.
- (d) something that is done right the first time.

2. (a) A familiar person is one who is
(b) A stout person is one who is

- (c) a close relative.
- (d) heavily built.

3. (a) To extinguish a light is to
(b) To obtain a light is to

- (c) put it out.
- (d) put a shade over it.

4. (a) To prune is to
(b) travel aimlessly.
(c) gather fruit.
(d) To wander is to
5. (a) whatever is inside something.
(b) the approach of darkness.
(c) Contentment is
(d) Dusk is
6. (a) An orchard is
(b) A blossom is
(c) a flower.
(d) a piece of fruit.
7. (a) is found after a search.
(b) Something that is apt
(c) Something that is detestable
(d) deserves hate.
8. (a) get rid of it.
(b) keep doing it.
(c) To practice something is to
(d) To obtain something is to
9. (a) a type of dried fruit.
(b) a place where fruit grows.
(c) A bough is
(d) A prune is

apt
blossom
bough
content
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dusk
extinguish
familiar
obtain
orchard
practice
prune
stout
threadbare
wander

16B 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 16.

1. I **strongly dislike** your taste in music.
2. As I crawled along the **branch of the tree**, it began to bend under my weight.
3. If I raise my grade to a B-plus, I will be **very satisfied**.
4. After three nights without enough sleep, my mind began to **fail to work in a normal way**.
5. My cousin's farm includes a large piece of land on which **fruit trees are growing**.
6. My favorite blue sweater is **shabby and worn out**, but I refuse to throw it away.

7. My piano teacher said that if I keep **playing that part over and over again**, I'll have the whole piece memorized.

8. Beginning skiers are **very likely** to fall many times while they are learning.

9. Gina is going to **get hold of** the equipment we need for the camping trip.

10. Your face is **known to me**, but I can't remember your name.

11. When do the rose bushes start to **have flowers growing on them**?

6C 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 be **stout**?

- (a) a person
- (b) a rope
- (c) a walking stick
- (d) a cobweb

2. Which of the following would grow in an **orchard**?

- (a) pears
- (b) a chord
- (c) potatoes
- (d) tomatoes

3. Which of the following happens at **dusk**?

- (a) the stars begin to appear
- (b) it gets darker
- (c) the sun rises
- (d) it gets cloudy

4. Which of the following can a person **obtain**?

- (a) a car roof rack
- (b) a car trip
- (c) a phone number
- (d) a phone call

5. Which of the following can be **pruned**?

- (a) trees
- (b) leaves
- (c) flowers
- (d) branches

6. Which of the following might bring you **contentment**?

- (a) being with your family
- (b) getting together with friends
- (c) feeling concerned about your health
- (d) missing an important date

7. Which of the following are **familiar** sights in the city?
- (a) buses
 - (b) taxicabs
 - (c) shoppers
 - (d) police cars

8. Which of the following might **wander**?

- (a) a train
- (b) a lost child
- (c) a person going for a long walk
- (d) a person setting off for work

16D Word Study

Write the synonym of each word on the left on the line next to it. Choose from the words on the right, which are in a different order.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. prompt | _____ | danger |
| 2. ban | _____ | sad |
| 3. detest | _____ | quick |
| 4. plead | _____ | satisfied |
| 5. threadbare | _____ | forbid |
| 6. obstinate | _____ | get |
| 7. fortunate | _____ | modest |
| 8. obtain | _____ | hate |
| 9. menace | _____ | lucky |
| 10. content | _____ | stubborn |
| 11. humble | _____ | beg |
| 12. melancholy | _____ | shabby |

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16E Passage

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

The Story of Johnny Applesseed

In the late 1700s, most Americans had never tasted an apple. That's because very few apple trees grew outside of New England. A man named John Chapman did more than anyone else to change that. He enjoyed sinking his teeth into a sweet, juicy apple and wanted to share his enjoyment with others. For forty years, as he **wandered** through Ohio, Indiana, and western Pennsylvania, it was his **practice** to take a bag of apple seeds with him, planting them as he went along.

Chapman **obtained** the seeds from New England cider mills after the apples had been pressed for cider. Over the years, due entirely to his efforts, apple **orchards** were growing in many of the places he had visited. From time to time, he returned to them in order to **prune** the trees and make sure they stayed healthy.

This unusual man was born in Leominster, Massachusetts, and began his travels in 1797, when he was in his early twenties. When he needed money, he knew that just down the road there would be someone who would give him work and pay him a dollar or two. Chapman spent most days on the road, a **stout** walking stick cut from an apple tree in his hand and a tall, black hat on his head. At **dusk**, he looked for a place to spend the night. If there was no house with a room to offer him nearby, he was **content** to sleep under the stars. He had few needs, and it didn't bother him that his clothes were **threadbare**.

Because he **detested** killing of any kind, John Chapman refused to eat meat. Once he even **extinguished** a campfire because mosquitoes were flying into the flames and dying. He had no fear of wild animals, and they seemed to sense that he would do them no harm. In one of the many stories told about Chapman, he spent the night in the company of a friendly bear.

When he returned to places he had visited before, Chapman was greeted as an old friend. He loved to come back in the spring and see apple trees he had planted years before full of pink and white **blossoms**. But his greatest pleasure was to return in the fall to see their **boughs** weighed down with apples. Over the years he became a **familiar** sight to the people living on the farms and in the small towns of the Ohio River Valley. They gave him the very **apt** name we know him by today—Johnny Appleseed.

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 is Johnny Appleseed an **apt** name for John Chapman?
2. Why did people have reason to be grateful to Chapman?
3. How do we know Chapman was not vain about his appearance?
4. Why did Chapman refuse to eat meat?
5. How can we tell that John Chapman was not usually in a hurry?
6. What is the meaning of **practice** as it is used in the passage?

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7. Where did Chapman get his apple seeds?

8. What did Chapman look for in choosing something from which to make a walking stick?

9. What did Chapman do at the end of the day when he was traveling?

10. What did Chapman do if there was no one to give him a night's lodging?

11. Why did Chapman once put out his campfire?

12. What sight did Chapman enjoy in the spring?

13. Did the apple trees Chapman planted yield much fruit?

14. How do you know that Chapman often returned to places he had been to before?

15. Why did Chapman return to places where he had planted trees?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

In Lesson 10, you learned that the word *orphan* comes from an old Sanskrit word. Another word that comes from this same language is *apt*. The Sanskrit word *apta* means “suitable” or “fitting.” An *apt* remark is one that is a suitable or fitting thing to say.

In some languages, such as Russian, a word is pronounced the way it is spelled. That is not the case with English, which is one of the reasons English can be so difficult to learn. The word **bough**, for example, rhymes with **bow**. These two words are homophones. Imagine a person studying English who tries to read the following sentences, all of which

contain words ending in *-ough*:

I have a bad *cough* (rhymes with *off*).

I've had *enough* (rhymes with *stuff*).

I'm coming *through* (rhymes with *shoe*).

Bread is made from *dough* (rhymes with *go*).

As an adjective, **content** means “satisfied.” It can also be a noun, however, meaning “the amount contained.” Then it is pronounced *con'tent*. (Water with a high lead *content* is unfit to drink.) The word is often used in its plural form, *contents*, and means “all that is contained.” (The grocery bag split, spilling its *contents* onto the floor.)