

Lesson 18

Word List

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

abreast
ə brɛst'

adj. or adv. 1. Side-by-side.

We walked three **abreast**, except where the path was so narrow that we had to walk single file.

2. Up-to-date.

I try to stay **abreast** of what is happening in the world by reading the paper every day.

barrier
bær' ē ə r

n. Anything that stops progress or blocks the way.

Lack of education is often a **barrier** to success in life.

breadth
brɛdθ

n. 1. The distance of something from side to side; width.

The arrow missed the target by no more than a hand's **breadth**.

2. Wide range; largeness.

Carlos got the job because of his **breadth** of experience.

capital
kæ' pə tɪ l

n. 1. Wealth that can be used to produce more wealth.

You don't need much **capital** to buy that pizza business.

2. The city where the government of a state or country is located.

The **capital** of Montana is Helena.

adj. Punishable by death.

Murder is a **capital** crime in many states.

ensure
ɪn' shʊər'

v. To make sure or certain.

Wearing a seat belt will help **ensure** your safety in case of an accident.

external
ɛk' stɜr' nəl

adj. On or related to the outside.

The **external** walls of the house are covered with shingles as protection.

feud
fyʊd

n. A long, bitter quarrel, especially one between two families.

It took the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet to end the **feud** between their two families.

v. To be enemies, to quarrel.

The Hatfields and the McCoys **feuded** for years.

fortress
fɔr' trɛs

n. A building with strong walls made to be defended against attack; a fort.

Rather than attack the **fortress** directly, the invaders went around it.

frequent
frɛ' kwɛnt

adj. Happening often or over and over.

My mother's business requires her to make **frequent** visits to Japan.

v. To go to over and over.

We **frequent** the local bakery regularly for oatmeal cookies.

frequency n. Number of times something is repeated.

My clarinet playing improved with the **frequency** of my practicing.

frontier
frun tīr'

1. The line between two countries. We said goodbye to France and crossed the **frontier** into Spain in the early morning.
2. The outer limits of the settled part of a country. The American **frontier** moved slowly westward in the nineteenth century.
3. The outer limits of knowledge. The **frontiers** of medicine are being pushed back at a rapidly increasing rate.

peasant
pez' ant

- n. A person who makes a living from working the soil, especially in poorer countries. The **Peasants' Revolt** in England in 1381 was a shock to the government.

petty
pe' tē

- adj. 1. Of little importance; small. A **petty** disagreement over a parking space led to a bitter quarrel between them.

threat
thret

- n. A warning that one may do harm. Olivia tried to quiet her dog after her neighbor's **threat** to call the police. **threaten** v. To make a threat. My brother **threatened** to tell my mother that I ate all the cake. **threatening** adj. Suggesting harm or danger. The dark clouds looked very **threatening**.

utilize
yū' tī līz

- v. To put to use. We **utilized** whatever scraps of fabric we had to make a costume.

vast
vast

- adj. Very great in area or amount. The Pacific Ocean is a **vast** body of water.

18A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 18. Write each sentence in the space provided.

abreast
barrier
breadth
capital
ensure
external
feud
fortress
frequent
frontier
peasant
petty
threat
utilize
vast

1. (a) The breadth of something is
(b) the number of times it occurs.

- (c) The frequency of something is
(d) its unexpected absence.

2. (a) A frontier is
(b) A barrier is

- (c) a person who makes a living from the soil.
(d) the outer limits of the settled part of a country.

3. (a) Capital is
(b) severe punishment.

- (c) Breadth is
(d) distance from side to side.

4. (a) to have knowledge of it.
(b) to avoid it.

- (c) To be abreast of something is
(d) To ensure something is

- 5. (a) is punishable by death.
- (b) goes unpunished.
- (c) A petty crime is one that
- (d) A capital crime is one that

- 6. (a) something that blocks the way.
- (b) something that can be used.
- (c) A peasant is
- (d) A barrier is

- 7. (a) A vast army
- (b) is one about to attack.
- (c) is one that has been routed.
- (d) A threatening army

- 8. (a) A fortress is
- (b) A peasant is
- (c) a person who makes a living from the soil.
- (d) a humble cottage.

- 9. (a) A petty difference is
- (b) one of little importance.
- (c) one that keeps increasing.
- (d) A vast difference is

- 10. (a) A fortress is
- (b) a bitter quarrel.
- (c) A feud is
- (d) the line between two countries.

- 11. (a) make sure it happens.
- (b) make sure it doesn't happen.
- (c) To ensure something is to
- (d) To utilize something is to

18B 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 18.

1. My father **puts to good use** every leftover when he makes a casserole.
2. A **building that is made to be defended against attack** should be built on high ground.
3. A country needs **wealth that can be used to produce more wealth** in order to produce jobs.
4. The points Eric raised were so **lacking in importance** that everyone ignored them.
5. If you try to **suggest that you could be a danger to me**, I won't talk to you any more.

6. I know most of the people who **make regular visits** to the Cosy Cafe; I have lunch there every day.
7. Most streets aren't wide enough for three cyclists riding **side by side**.
8. The land of the former Soviet Union is so **great in the area** it covers that it crosses ^{nine} time zones.
9. The first symptoms of measles are **on the outside and show up on the skin**.
10. Many of the **lines separating the various countries** of Europe were redrawn after the First World War.
11. The two families continued to **keep up the long and bitter quarrel** because neither side was willing to give in.

18C Applying Meanings

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

- Which of the following has **breadth**?
 - a surface
 - a point where lines meet
 - a brick
 - a line joining two points
- Which of the following is an **external** symptom?
 - a sore throat
 - a stomach ache
 - a skin rash
 - a twitching eyelid
- In which of the following places are you likely to find a **peasant**?
 - a city
 - a farm
 - an office
 - a field
- Which of the following is a **threatening** remark?
 - "See you later."
 - "I'll get even with you!"
 - "You'll be sorry."
 - "I'm sorry."
- Which of the following would be considered **vast**?
 - the Atlantic Ocean
 - the distance to the nearest star
 - the universe
 - the American prairie

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6. Which of the following is a **capital**?

- (a) Washington, D.C.
- (b) Paris, France
- (c) Ottawa, Canada
- (d) Bronx, New York

7. Which of the following are **petty** concerns?

- (a) your choice of breakfast cereal
- (b) your choice of school
- (c) a broken fingernail
- (d) a broken leg

8. Which of the following do people change **frequently**?

- (a) their date of birth
- (b) their socks
- (c) their eating habits
- (d) their names

180 Word Study

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

- 1. stingy _____ cowardly
- 2. familiar _____ generous
- 3. approve _____ start
- 4. stout _____ blissful
- 5. frequent _____ resist
- 6. extinguish _____ exciting
- 7. submit _____ tiny
- 8. conclude _____ reject
- 9. dreary _____ light
- 10. valiant _____ fragile
- 11. vast _____ strange
- 12. forlorn _____ rare

18E Passage

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

The Great Wall of China

Most visitors to China make a point of seeing the Great Wall. It is hard to miss because of its **enormous** size. It is about twenty-five feet high, and its **breadth** at the top is nearly twenty feet, wide enough for ten people to walk **abreast**. It starts in Gansu province in the south and ends at the Yellow Sea in the **northeast**, a distance of fifteen hundred miles. The part of the wall tourists visit most **frequently** goes from Beijing, the **capital** of China, to the Yellow Sea.

The Great Wall of China was built more than two thousand years ago as a **barrier** against tribes from the north. The person responsible for having it built was Shi Huang-ti, known as "the First Emperor of China." Before the country was united under his leadership, China was divided into a large number of **petty** kingdoms, ruled by local warlords who spent most of their time **feuding** among themselves. By the year 221 B.C., Shi Huang-ti had taken control of the whole country and made himself emperor.

Because the empire was so **vast**, it was not easy to defend. Shi Huang-ti had nothing to fear at home, but he worried about **external** attacks, especially from the north, where tribes from central Asia **threatened** his rule. To **ensure** the safety of his empire, he had the Great Wall built along China's northern **frontier**. It had watchtowers every few miles, as well as **fortresses** where the emperor's soldiers were housed, ready to fight off attacks. Building began in 214 B.C., and later rulers of China added to it in the west and south. Work on the wall was still being carried out four centuries ago.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese **peasants** were forced to leave their farms to do the actual work of building the Great Wall. Everything had to be carried on the workers' backs or slung on poles because the wheelbarrow had not yet been invented. The builders **utilized** whatever was close at hand—blocks of stone in mountain areas and timber from forests. In other places, they used earth or sand mixed with twigs and reeds. Later on, bricks and tiles were used.

Shi Huang-ti is an important figure in Chinese history. He improved the workings of government and ordered the building of roads and canals to improve communications throughout the empire. He built a magnificent palace as well as many other fine public buildings. But his greatest achievement, and the thing for which he is remembered, is the Great Wall of China.

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 do you think tourists visit the Great Wall so **frequently**?

2. Why does it take a very long time to cross China?

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3. Why would you expect to find many government offices in Beijing?
4. Why did the "First Emperor" build the Great Wall?
5. What enemies was Shi Huang-ti worried about?
6. How did the local warlords get along with each other?
7. How much influence do you think the ruler of a **petty** kingdom would have?
8. Why was Shi Huang-ti concerned about the tribes in Central Asia?
9. Where would an invasion of China by the northern tribes have taken place?
10. What materials did the builders of the wall use?
11. What was the purpose of the **fortresses** that were built into the wall?
12. Why was it possible to use the top of the Great Wall as a road?
13. Why would the Great Wall be easy to see from the air?

14. Why might the **peasants** have resented having to work on the wall?
15. Was the Great Wall successful in doing what it was suppose to do?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Don't confuse the word **capital**, which has several meanings as an adjective and is also a noun, with the word *capital*, which is a noun only.

The *Capitol* (with an uppercase C) is the building in which the United States Congress meets. A *capital* (with a lowercase c) is the building in which the governing body of a state meets. It might help you to remember the difference between *capital* and *capitol* if you note that most *capitols* are buildings with *domes*, a word with an *o* in it.

External refers to that which is outside, rather than inside. Its antonym, *internal*, refers to that which

is inside rather than outside. The skin is the body's only *external* organ. The heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys are *internal* organs.

A related word to *external* is *exterior*; its antonym is *interior*. An *exterior* door is one on the outside; an *interior* door is one inside a building that connects one room with another.