

Lesson 19

Word List

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

audition
ô dish' ən

n. A short performance by an actor or musician as a test for a particular job.

Auditions for the school band will be held tomorrow.

v. To try out for.

Six people **auditioned** for the part of Helen Keller in the fourth-grade play.

create
krē ät'

v. To bring into being; to produce for the first time.

The computer industry has **created** many new jobs.

creative *adj.* Having new and original ideas.

Mozart was one of the most **creative** musicians that ever lived.

creation *n.* The act of bringing into being; something created.

The **creation** of three new teaching positions means that classrooms will be less crowded.

elevate
e' lə vāt

v. To lift up; to raise to a higher level.

Jane Austen **elevated** the English novel to new heights.

elevation (ev lə vā' shən) *n.* Height.

I have to look up the **elevation** of Mt. Monadnock for my chart.

eliminate
i' li' mə nāt

v. To get rid of; to remove or leave out.

Zeb decided to **eliminate** the last paragraph because his report was too long.

elimination (i li mə nā' shən) *n.* A getting rid of.

The **elimination** of the Red Sox from the pennant race upset my mother terribly.

engage
in' gæj'

v. 1. To put to work; to hire.

The Beachfront Restaurant **engages** extra help every summer.

2. To keep busy or active.

Wen Lin tried to **engage** her cousin in conversation, but she was very shy.

3. To bind oneself to do something, especially to marry.

My parents got **engaged** on New Year's Eve.

entrance
in' trəns'

v. To fill with joy or delight.

The young dancers **entranced** the audience with their grace and beauty.

entrancing *adj.* Delightful.

The songs were so **entrancing** that we hated to see the performance end.

essential
e' sen' shəl

adj. Most important; very necessary.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are **essential** to a good diet.

essentials *n. pl.* Something that cannot be done without.

I packed my overnight bag with my toothbrush and other **essentials**.

foremost
fôr' mōst

adj. First in importance, time, or place.

This new play by America's **foremost** playwright is breaking all box office records.

forsake
fɔrˈsāk

v. To have nothing more to do with; to turn one's back on. I'd never **forsake** my old friends if I became rich and famous.

recognize
rɪˈkɪɡ nɪz

v. 1. To know and remember upon seeing. I **recognized** the name, but not the face.
2. To admit the truth or accept the existence of. For many years, the U.S. was unwilling to **recognize** the government of China.
3. To accept and approve. The manager told my mother that the company **recognizes** the good job she does.

sentimental
sen tə menˈtəl

adj. Expressing feelings of love or pity, sometimes to excess. The movie was so **sentimental** that everyone was in tears.

source
sɔrs

n. The thing or place from which something comes. We decided to go on a trip to reach the **source** of the Nile River.

tour
tuʊr

n. A trip or journey in which one usually returns to the starting point. The band played over twenty concerts on its **tour** of the Midwest.
v. To travel to different places. My cousin Anna and I **toured** the old part of Montreal in a horse-drawn carriage.

tradition
trə dɪʃ ən

n. A belief, custom, or usual way of doing things, handed down within families or other groups. Fireworks on July 4 are an American **tradition**.
traditional adj. Handed down from age to age. My whole family enjoys getting together for a **traditional** Passover seder.

trio
triˈoʊ

n. A group of three people. Luis plays the cello in a **trio**.

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19A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 19. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) the things that are left out.
(b) Traditions are

(c) Essentials are
(d) the things considered necessary.

2. (a) know or remember it.
(b) To recognize a piece of work is to

(c) To create a piece of work is to
(d) make changes in it.

3. (a) passed down over time.
(b) A traditional custom is one

(c) that is no longer practiced.
(d) A sentimental custom is one

4. (a) A creation is
(b) A tour is
(c) a small group.
(d) something produced for the first time.
5. (a) to consider.
(b) To entrance is
(c) to delight.
(d) To audition is
6. (a) turn one's back on that person.
(b) protect that person.
(c) To engage someone is to
(d) To forsake someone is to
7. (a) Elimination of something is
(b) finding a new and different use for it.
(c) Elevation of something is
(d) getting rid of it.
8. (a) To audition someone is to
(b) To engage someone is to
(c) hire that person.
(d) get rid of that person.
9. (a) a journey around a place.
(b) the answer to a puzzle.
(c) A source is
(d) A tour is

19B 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 19.

- Stephen Hawking is one of the world's **greatest and most important** experts on black holes.
- At my parents' anniversary party a **group of three singers** sang popular songs from the forties and fifties.
- We were able to locate the **place that was the beginning** of the river by following it and hiking up to the mountains.
- The Pied Piper's job was to **get rid of** the rats from the town of Hamelin.
- My cousin Becca and Juan Morales, her friend from grade school, became **promised to each other in marriage** on June 1.
- Because I am so short, I have to **put at a higher level** every piano stool I sit on.

7. I always cry at weddings because I'm so easily affected by romantic feelings.
8. Sequoya brought into being for the first time a written language for the Cherokee people.
9. The government admits the existence of the need for laws to protect the wetlands.
10. The short performances that people gave who were trying out for places in the orchestra lasted all day.
11. We returned again and again to Trinidad because it is such a(n) delightful and pleasurable island.

19C 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 might one **audition** for?
 - a job with a band
 - an apartment rental
 - a part in a play
 - a factory position
- Which of the following is **essential** for college?
 - graduation from high school
 - being on a sports team
 - a birth certificate
 - good grades
- Which of the following are birthday **traditions**?
 - blowing out candles
 - having cake
 - getting presents
 - making pumpkin pie
- Which of the following might one **tour**?
 - a precipice
 - a museum
 - an address
 - a film studio
- Which of the following might one **forsake**?
 - one's friends
 - one's family
 - one's career
 - one's health
- Which of the following might **elevate** one's spirits?
 - being hailed by a friend
 - a pessimistic remark
 - being jeered by a crowd
 - finishing a lot of work

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trio

7. Which of the following might **entrance** a child?
 (a) a red balloon
 (b) a melancholy tale
 (c) a funny clown
 (d) a threatening gesture
8. Which should one **eliminate** for good health?
 (a) a balanced diet
 (b) regular check-ups
 (c) eating fatty foods
 (d) exercise

Word Study

The prefix *tri-* means “three” and comes from both Greek and Latin. A *triceratops* is a large, three-horned dinosaur. The letters *tri* at the beginning of a word do not always function as a prefix. Sometimes a word just happens to begin with these three letters.

Look at each word and its meaning below and decide if *tri* is a prefix. If it is, underline the first three letters. If it isn't, don't underline anything.

1. triangle a figure with three straight sides
2. trillion a thousand billion
3. triplets three babies born at a single birth
4. trial a case heard in a court of law
5. tricycle a child's bike with three wheels
6. trident a three-pointed spear
7. tricolor the red, white, and blue French flag
8. trio a group of three
9. tribe a group of families ruled by a chief
10. triplicate made in three copies
11. tripod a three-legged stand
12. trickle to flow slowly in a thin stream

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

Martha Graham—Artist and Teacher

Martha Graham was one of the **foremost** dancers of the twentieth century. She founded a dance company that performed modern dance for an ever-widening audience and was **recognized** as one of modern dance's greatest teachers.

Before Martha Graham's time, dance as a serious art form meant French and Russian ballet, which had remained largely unchanged since the nineteenth century. It told stories that were often **sentimental** and far removed from the real world, and followed fixed patterns of movement. Female dancers wore **traditional** tight-waisted costumes with short skirts, tights, and stiffened ballet shoes that enabled them to dance on their toes. Music was usually classical, often written especially for the ballet.

Martha Graham began by **eliminating** from her dances everything that she felt was unnecessary. What remained was a new kind of dance, stripped to its **essentials** with bare stage settings and the simplest of costumes. Her dancers were usually barefoot and wore loose, flowing clothes. Her subjects were drawn from a great variety of **sources** that included Native American life, scenes from American history, and the poetry of Emily Dickinson. She tried to develop a kind of dance that expressed human feelings as well as told a story.

Martha Graham's lifelong interest in dance began in 1912 when, at the age of seventeen, she saw Ruth St. Denis perform in San Francisco as part of her American **tour**. St. Denis was heavily influenced by Japanese, Indian, and Spanish dances, and Graham was **entranced** by what she saw. She began taking dancing lessons, and when she was twenty-two, she successfully **auditioned** for the Denishawn dance company, run by Ruth St. Denis and her husband, Ted Shawn. Graham stayed with the company for seven years and became one of its leading dancers.

In 1924, Martha Graham decided temporarily to **forsake** the life of a performer to concentrate on teaching and developing her own style of dancing. She returned to the New York stage two years later with a **trio** of female dancers formed from her best students; in 1930 she formed the much larger Martha Graham Dance Company. She preferred women dancers; not until 1938 did she **engage** male dancers to appear on stage with her. "Modern dance," she once said, "isn't anything in my mind except one thing—the freedom of women in America."

Her last public performance took place in 1969, when she was seventy-four years old. She had won over all her critics and had **elevated** modern dance to a new American art form. When she died in 1991, at the age of ninety-six, she was at work **creating** a new dance for her company. That unfinished work, *The Eyes of the Goddess*, was performed by her company shortly after her death as a tribute to one of America's greatest artists.

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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. How do people around the country get to see dance companies?
2. How did Martha Graham change the style of dance?
3. What were **traditional** costumes like?
4. How would you describe the Martha Graham stage?
5. What were French and Russian ballet like?
6. Where did Martha Graham get ideas for her dances?
7. How did Martha Graham feel about Ruth St. Denis's performance?
8. Why did Martha Graham **forsake** performing in 1924?
9. What is the meaning of **engage** as it is used in the passage?
10. How many other dancers did Martha Graham need to perform with her as a trio?

11. What is the meaning of **recognized** as it is used in the passage?
12. What was Martha Graham doing at the time of her death?
13. What does the passage say was Martha Graham's greatest achievement?
14. Why is Martha Graham famous?
15. What do you have to do to get into a dance company?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

If you **audition** for a part in a play, you want to make sure that you are *heard*. The word itself suggests this; it comes from the Latin verb *audire*, which means "to hear." Other words formed from this root include the following:

Audible, loud enough to be heard (an *audible* whisper);

Audio, intended to be heard (an *audio* tape);

Audience, a group of people gathered together to hear (and also to see) whatever is being performed for their enjoyment;

Auditorium, a large room in which people come together to hear a presentation;

Auditory, having to do with the ear (the *auditory* nerve).

A **trio** is a group of three, especially a group of three musicians or other entertainers. The word

comes from the Latin (and Greek) word for "three." Other Latin numbers give us the following: *duet*, two performers or a piece to be performed by two persons, from the Latin *duo*; *quartet*, a group of four, from the Latin *quattuor*; *quintet*, a group of five, from the Latin *quintus*; *sextet*, a group of six, from the Latin *sex*; *septet*, a group of seven, from the Latin *septem*; and *octet*, a group of eight, from the Latin *octo*.

Entrance has two pronunciations: en 'transs, and 'en transs. The more common pronunciation, 'en transs, means a way to go inside someplace or something. En 'transs, to fill with joy or delight, which appears in this lesson, is less common.