

Lesson 10

Word List

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

v. To cause sickness, pain, or trouble.
“What **ails** you?” the doctor asked.
ailment *n.* An illness; a disease.
Measles is a common childhood **ailment**.
ailing *adj.* In poor health.
I have been **ailing** all winter.

ail
āi

banish
bān' nīsh

v. 1. To force someone out of the country.
When the tsars ruled Russia, lawbreakers were **banished** to Siberia.
2. To get rid of completely.

Joe was such a cheerful person, he **banished** gloom wherever he went.

communicate
kō myōō' nī kāt

v. To make known; to give or exchange information.
Since I hate to write letters, we **communicate** mostly by telephone.
communication (kō myōō' nī kā' shōn) *n.* The exchange of information between people.
The misunderstanding was caused by a lack of **communication** between us.
communicative *adj.* Willing to speak; eager to talk.

When I asked her where she had been, she was not very **communicative**, replying only, “Out.”

console
kōn' sōi'

v. To make less sad; to comfort.
My parents tried to **console** me when my best friend moved away.
consolation (kōn sō' lā' shōn) *n.* Comfort.

I knew I could always turn to my aunt for **consolation** whenever I was upset.

cower
kōw' ər

v. To shrink from, as if from fear.
When I saw the poor dog **cower**, I knew its master was cruel.

deliberate
dē' lī' bə' rēt

adj. Carefully thought out; not hasty.
Although my mother was angry, she spoke in a calm and **deliberate** manner.
v. (dē' lī' bə' rāt) To think carefully in order to make up one's mind.
We **deliberated** a long time before deciding to move to Arizona.

depth
dē' pth

n. Distance from top to bottom or front to back; deepness.
The floodwaters reached a **depth** of several feet.
depths *n. pl.* The innermost part or the deepest part.
The treasure chest lay buried in the **depths** of the sea.

desire
dē' zīr'

v. To wish for; to want very much.
A person who is famished **desires** just one thing—food!
n. A strong wish.
Pizarro's **desire** for gold was so great he ordered the Inca king, Atahualpa, to fill three rooms with it.
desirable *adj.* Pleasing; agreeable.
My new school is in a very **desirable** location.

livelihood
lɪv'li:hood

n. The means of supporting oneself.
The storekeepers in Key West depend on tourists for their **livelihood**.

misfortune
mɪs'fɔ:chən

n. 1. Bad luck; trouble.
He had the **misfortune** to break his leg right before the big game.
2. An unlucky event.
The 1992 hurricane was Florida's worst **misfortune** in many years.

orphan
ɔ:r'fən

n. A child whose parents are dead.
Tom Sawyer lived with his Aunt Polly because he was an **orphan**.

precipice
pre'sə:pəs

n. A very high and steep cliff.
We stood watchfully on the edge of the **precipice** and looked down.
precipitous (pri'si'pə:təs) *adj.* 1. Very steep.
The Two-Mile Terror ski trail has many **precipitous** slopes.
2. Hasty; abrupt; done without careful thought.
Joining the Navy so suddenly was a **precipitous** act.

regain
ri'gə:n

v. To get back.
By following the doctor's orders, I slowly **regained** my health.

slay
slə

v. To kill violently. (**slain**, past participle)
The scene where Saint George **slays** the dragon comes right at the end of the play.

symptom
sɪmp'təm

n. A sign of something.
Headaches can be a **symptom** of eyestrain.

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10A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 10. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- (a) To slay someone is to
(b) To banish someone is to
(c) send that person away.
(d) tell that person something.
- (a) One's misfortune is
(b) the way one treats other people.
(c) the way one makes a living.
(d) One's livelihood is
- (a) A precipitous drop in price is
(b) one that is big and unexpected.
(c) A desirable drop in price is
(d) one that is very small.

4. (a) To communicate something is to
(b) get it back.
(c) decide not to take it.
(d) To regain something is to
5. (a) to be loved.
(b) to be ill.
(c) To be ailing is
(d) To be deliberate is
6. (a) Consolation is
(b) Communication is
(c) the giving of information.
(d) a series of unlucky events.
7. (a) A deliberate change
(b) A desirable change
(c) is one that is agreeable.
(d) is one that is hardly noticed.
8. (a) To slay someone is to
(b) comfort that person.
(c) To console someone is to
(d) fear that person.
9. (a) a large sum of money.
(b) Depth is
(c) the distance from top to bottom.
(d) Misfortune is
10. (a) a close family member.
(b) a sign of something.
(c) A symptom is
(d) An orphan is

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 10.

- The judges **gave a great deal of thought and talked among themselves** for a long time before announcing the winner of the science fair.
- The worst **bad luck** to hit the town was the closing of the shipyard.
- Hunters who **violently kill** baby seals for their fur will be stopped.
- "You don't look well. **What is the matter with you?**" asked Jorge.
- He expressed a **strong wish** to spend more time with his children.

6. It took the climbers an hour to descend the **steep cliff that went straight down**.
7. We used to **shrink back in fear** whenever we heard her voice.
8. When Luisa's pet rabbit died, she began writing in her journal every night for **something to give her comfort**.
9. The **children whose parents had been killed** were all adopted by families in town.
10. If you want this venture to succeed, you must **get rid of** any thoughts of failure.
11. I was moved to the **very deepest parts** of my soul by the sight of the northern lights flashing across the sky.

10C 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 can have **depth**?
 - a drawer
 - a pond
 - a point
 - a shelf
- Which of the following might an actor **desire**?
 - perfect teeth
 - applause
 - decayed teeth
 - a good role
- Which of the following is a way to **communicate**?
 - watching television
 - talking on the phone
 - reading a book
 - writing a letter
- Which of the following is an **ailment**?
 - measles
 - anger
 - baldness
 - hunger
- Which of the following might be a person's **livelihood**?
 - attending school
 - mowing lawns
 - washing cars
 - taking out the trash

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6. Which of the following might be a **deliberate** act?
- (a) stumbling
(b) singing
(c) lying
(d) sneezing
7. Which of the following could be **precipitous**?
- (a) a fall in price
(b) an action
(c) a cliff
(d) a road
8. Which of the following could be **regained**?
- (a) one's youth
(b) one's health
(c) the trust of a friend
(d) the lead in a race

Word Study

Turn to the Word List for this lesson and look up *deliberate*. Notice that it has two different pronunciations. When used as an adjective, the last syllable rhymes with *hut*. When used as a verb, the last syllable rhymes with *late*.

Several other words from earlier lessons are also pronounced differently depending on whether they are used as nouns or verbs. There are two syllables in each word pair below, and we stress (say more forcefully) either the first or the second syllable depending on whether the word is used as a verb or a noun. In the pronunciation guide, an accent mark follows the stressed syllable. The word *banish* is pronounced *bá nish*, with the stress falling on the first syllable: BA-nish.

For each sentence below, underline the syllable that is stressed in the word in bold. To the right of each sentence, write whether the word is a verb or a noun.

1. To **project** your voice, you speak to the back of the room. _____
2. A **project** of this size will take years to complete. _____
3. You can get a parking **permit** at the town hall. _____
4. The town does not **permit** overnight parking on Main Street. _____
5. We expect to sign the **contract** at tomorrow's meeting. _____
6. Metals **contract** as they get colder. _____
7. If the pottery is a factory **reject**, we sell it for half price. _____
8. If you **reject** your friend's offer, you might regret it later. _____
9. We **progress** slowly, one small step at a time. _____
10. Tim's latest school report shows he made **progress** in math and science. _____

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

Tokoyo and the Sea Monster

Folktales are stories passed on from adults to children without ever being written down. Every country has its folktales, and this one comes from Japan. It is the story of a young pearl diver named Tokoyo.

The people of Tokoyo's village made their **livelihood** diving for pearls. Tokoyo was the youngest of the divers. She could stay underwater longer and collect more oysters than anyone, searching for the one oyster in a thousand that contained a precious pearl. The sea was like a second home to her, and she swam easily through its **depths**, cutting oysters from the rocks with her razor-sharp pearly knife.

The other pearl divers were all the family Tokoyo had. Her mother had died when she was a baby, and while she was still a child **misfortune** struck again. Her father, whose sense of humor had gotten him into trouble before, had made a joke about the fact that the emperor was always sick. Because making fun of the emperor was a crime, Tokoyo's father was **banished** to the island of Oki, far from the Japanese mainland. To make matters worse, **communication** between Tokoyo and her father was forbidden. Her friends tried to **console** the young girl, but they could not lift her spirits. She felt like an **orphan**, and the house that had once been filled with laughter was now filled with sorrow.

Tokoyo's one **desire** was to see her father. On her fifteenth birthday, she left her village and set off for Oki. Soon after landing on the island, Tokoyo saw a group of people standing on the edge of a cliff with a girl about her own age who was dressed all in white. People explained to Tokoyo that the evil sea god that made its home in the waters off the island demanded the life of a young girl once a year. They told her that the girl **cowering** before them had been chosen as the sea god's victim and was about to be thrown into the sea. Then they said that the sea god had also cast a spell on the emperor, causing his many **ailments**. When she heard this, Tokoyo saw a chance to help her father. She begged people to let her take the girl's place. They began to **deliberate** among themselves while Tokoyo waited anxiously. Finally, to her great relief, they agreed.

Tokoyo walked to the edge of the **precipice**, took a deep breath, and leaped into the water. She swam deeper and deeper until, at the bottom of the sea, she found herself face to face with the evil sea god. Tokoyo drew her pearly knife, **slaying** the evil sea god and thus ending the spell he had cast on the emperor. In an instant, all the emperor's **symptoms** disappeared. He was delighted to be rid of the doctors who had attended him, and when he learned of Tokoyo's brave deed, he promised the young girl whatever she wanted. As a result of Tokoyo's wish, her father **regained** his freedom and was happily reunited with his daughter.

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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. Explain why the story of Tokoyo and the evil sea god has a happy ending.
2. Was Tokoyo an **orphan**? Explain your answer.

3. What does "misfortune struck" mean as it is used in the passage?

4. Why did the emperor need doctors?

5. How does the narrative make clear that Tokoyo's friends were kind to her?

6. Where did the evil sea god live?

7. Explain why Tokoyo's fight with the sea god was a **deliberate** act.

8. Why didn't Tokoyo's father write to her?

9. Why was Tokoyo's father living on the island of Oki?

10. Why did Tokoyo go to the island of Oki?

11. Why had the girl in white been taken to the **precipice**?

12. How can you tell that the girl in white was afraid?

13. Why did Tokoyo want to take the girl's place?

14. How did the emperor know that the spell had been broken?

15. Why did the people of Tokoyo's village dive for oysters?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

One of the world's oldest languages is Sanskrit. It was spoken in India thousands of years ago and is the special language of the Hindu religion. very few people speak it today, but some words in European languages are connected to Sanskrit. **Orphan** is one of them. An *orphan* is a child without parents who therefore can be in a weak and helpless state. The

word comes from the Sanskrit *arbha*, which means "weak; helpless."

This lesson includes the word **slay**, which is a homophone of *sleigh*. A *sleigh* is a carriage on runners that travels over snow. *Sleigh* and *slay* are pronounced the same way.