

Lesson 3

Word List

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

approach

ə prōch'

v. To go closer to.

The vet **approached** the wounded deer carefully.

n. 1. A coming closer.

My grandparents dread the **approach** of winter.

2. A road or way that leads to a place.

The **approach** to the beach was blocked by a fallen tree.

burrow

bʌr' ō

v. 1. To dig a hole or tunnel into or under something.

Turtles **burrow** into soft sand to lay their eggs.

2. To dig deeply into; to search.

The clerk **burrowed** through the pile of papers on his desk.

n. A hole or tunnel dug by an animal as a home or for protection.

A mole spends most of its time in its **burrow**.

cease

sēs

v. To stop; to come or bring to an end.

After several hours of thunder and lightning, the storm finally **ceased**.

destructive

dɪ struk' tiv

adj. Causing harm or damage.

Cutworms are very **destructive** garden insects.

destruction n. Harm or damage.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Louisiana coast, it caused great **destruction**.

drowsy

drou' zē

adj. Tired or sleepy.

Lying in the sun always makes my cat, Inky, **drowsy**.

famished

fa' misht

adj. Very hungry.

Sometimes I work through my lunch hour, so by suppertime I am **famished!**

forecast

fôr' kast

v. To figure out and say what will happen before it takes place.

Our fishing guide **forecast** a good catch.

n. A telling of what will happen.

As soon as Carlos gets up, he turns on the weather **forecast**.

hibernate

hī' bər nāt

v. To spend the winter in a resting state.

Bears **hibernate** because they can't find enough food in the winter.

migrate

mī' grāt

v. To move from one country or region to another.

Hundreds of thousands of people have **migrated** to the United States in search of freedom.

migration n. The act of migrating.

My friend Sandhya is studying Indian **migration** to the United States.

migratory (mī' grə tōr ē) adj. Moving from one place or country to another, usually regularly.

Canada geese are **migratory** birds.

nestle
ne' səl

- v. 1. To settle down comfortably, as if in a nest.
"The children were **nestled** all snug in their beds" is a famous line from *'Twas the Night before Christmas*.
2. To lie in a sheltered, partly hidden place.
The little Swiss town **nestled** at the foot of the Alps.

observe
əb zərv'

- v. 1. To see; to notice.
I looked up at the sky and **observed** a hawk circling slowly, far above us.
2. To comment; to remark.
Sleepily, I **observed** that it was time we left.
3. To mark an event or day.
We **observed** Martin Luther King Day by closing the store.
4. To obey.
I try to **observe** the speed limit when I drive.

prepare
pri par'

- v. To make or get ready.
The scouts **prepared** for their camping trip by getting lots of freeze-dried food.
preparation (pre pə rā' shən) n. Something done to get ready.
Antonio and Ruth did most of the **preparation** for the cookout the night before.

reduce
ri dūs'

- v. To make or become smaller or less.
This winter, Vermont **reduced** the amount of salt it put on its roads.
reduction (ri duk' shən) n. The act of reducing or the amount by which something is reduced.
The store sold out of swimsuits after its huge price **reduction**.

severe
sə vir'

- adj. 1. Very strict or harsh.
That's a very **severe** punishment for turning a paper in late.
2. Hard to bear or deal with.
A **severe** frost caused a lot of damage to central Florida's orange crop.

venture
ven' chər

- v. To dare to do, to go, or to say.
Maria **ventured** onto the dance floor even though she didn't know how to dance.
n. Something that involves the risk of a loss.
Grandpa's most successful **venture** was a carpet cleaning service.

3A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 3. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) does a lot of damage. (c) can be easily tamed.
(b) A migratory animal is one that (d) A destructive animal is one that

2. (a) a disappearance. (c) An approach is
(b) A venture is (d) a coming closer.

3. (a) A famished creature
(b) A migratory creature
(c) moves with the changing seasons.
(d) goes to sleep for the winter.
4. (a) To burrow is to
(b) dig a hole or tunnel.
(c) refuse to obey.
(d) To nestle is to
5. (a) to take no part in it.
(b) To forecast an event is
(c) to say it will happen.
(d) To observe an event is
6. (a) To reduce is to
(b) settle down comfortably.
(c) To nestle is to
(d) fall into a deep sleep.
7. (a) Preparation is
(b) what you do to get ready.
(c) Hibernation is
(d) what is asked for.
8. (a) something that involves a risk.
(b) the addition of something.
(c) A reduction is
(d) A venture is
9. (a) very thirsty.
(b) very hungry.
(c) To be famished is to be
(d) To be drowsy is to be
10. (a) To observe something is to
(b) pay no attention to it.
(c) To cease something is to
(d) notice it.

3B 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 3.

1. Hana was starting to feel **very sleepy** when a loud noise made her jump.
2. The rain did not **come to an end** until early the next morning.
3. Some animals **go into a long, deep sleep** because there is so little for them to eat during the winter months.

4. The cottage **lay partly hidden** in a hollow beside a grove of poplar trees.
5. All the **roads that lead** to the airport are closed because of the snowstorm.
6. The **long journey** of Canada geese from northern Canada to South America occurs each fall.
7. Even though Granny has **very bad** arthritis, she still tries to walk every day.
8. The **cutting down in size** of this week's newspaper to just four pages was due to the paper shortage.
9. Ron **dug deeply** through the papers on his desk, trying to find the letter from his father.
10. As Maria Tipo played the piano, I **closely watched** the way she used the pedal.

3C Applying Meaning

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

approach
 burrow
 cease
 destructive
 drowsy
 famished
 forecast
 hibernate
 migrate
 nestle
 observe
 prepare
 reduce
 severe
 venture

1. Which of the following can people **reduce**?

(a) their weight	(c) their age
(b) their shoe size	(d) their spending

2. Which of the following would be a **severe** punishment?

(a) a slap on the wrist	(c) no television for a day
(b) going to jail	(d) being told to be quiet

3. Which of the following can a person **forecast**?

(a) the result of a game	(c) a past event
(b) the weather	(d) costs of doing business

4. Which of the following can cause **destruction**?

(a) forest fires	(c) bombs
(b) floods	(d) hurricanes

5. Which of the following could **cease**?

(a) fighting	(c) the weather
(b) noises	(d) a storm

6. Which of the following can **migrate**?

- (a) animals (c) plants
(b) birds (d) humans

7. Which of the following could be **observed**?

- (a) a law (c) a rule
(b) a birthday (d) a full moon

8. Which of the following can be **prepared**?

- (a) a lunch for four (c) a book report
(b) a garden for planting (d) a full moon

3D Word Study

Many of our English words come to us from Latin. We say they have Latin roots. Our word *patriot*, for example, is formed from the Latin word *pater*, meaning "father."

To the right of each vocabulary word, write the Latin word that it comes from, together with its meaning. Choose from the ten Latin roots listed below.

propius (near) *plere* (complete) *bene* (well) *calculus* (pebble) *severus* (serious; strict)
hibernus (winter) *fames* (hunger) *servare* (watch) *jacere* (throw) *cessare* (stop)

<u>Definition</u>	<u>English Word</u>	<u>Latin Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. to draw near; to get closer	approach	_____	_____
2. to spend the winter sleeping	hibernate	_____	_____
3. very hungry; starving	famished	_____	_____
4. to bring to an end; to finish	complete	_____	_____
5. to come to an end; to stop	cease	_____	_____
6. to look at closely	observe	_____	_____
7. strict or harsh	severe	_____	_____
8. to throw onto a screen	project	_____	_____
9. to be useful to; to help	benefit	_____	_____
10. to figure out using math	calculate	_____	_____

3E Passage

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

A Long Winter Nap

Summer is a good time of year for most animals. It's easy for them to keep warm, and food is plentiful. Winter is harder for them. Lakes and ponds are frozen, snow may cover the ground, and food is much harder to find. Many birds and some animals escape northern winters by **migrating** south in the fall and returning in the spring.

The woodchuck, or groundhog, as it is also called, deals with winter differently. It **hibernates**. As soon as it feels the weather turning cold, it digs a **burrow** at least five feet underground and makes a comfortable nest with leaves and grass. It spends the cold winter months **nestled** in its underground bed, and does not usually wake up until spring. It is far enough below ground so that there is no danger that it will freeze to death even during the most **severe** winter.

Since it will not eat at all during the winter, the woodchuck eats as much and as often as it can during the summer. People with gardens know how **destructive** one can be to their plants. As winter **approaches**, the woodchuck becomes so fat it can hardly move. It gets ready for its long sleep by **preparing** its nest and closing off the openings of the tunnels that lead down to it. When it starts to feel **drowsy**, it makes itself comfortable and falls into a long, deep sleep that can last up to eight months.

If you **observed** the woodchuck in this state, you might think it had died. Its breathing almost **ceases**, and its heart slows down to about four beats a minute. If you took its temperature, you would find that it had fallen to just above freezing. When the woodchuck wakes up in the spring after going without food for so many months, its weight has been **reduced** to only half of what it was in the fall. Almost all its body fat has been used up to keep it alive during its long sleep. By February or March, the **famished** animal is ready to leave its hole and go looking for its first meal.

Years ago, people who lived in the country eagerly awaited the sight of the first groundhog putting its head above ground; it was a sign that winter was over. This gave rise to a number of stories. One of them, told by German farmers who had settled in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, was about a groundhog they called Punxsutawney Phil. This remarkable animal could **forecast** the weather.

According to the story, Phil **ventured** from his nest every February 2. He poked his head above ground and looked around. If he saw his shadow, it meant that there would be another month and a half of winter, so he went back to sleep for another six weeks. If the weather was cloudy, and he didn't see his shadow, it meant spring would be early. This story spread around the country, and February 2 became known as Groundhog Day.

approach
burrow
cease
destructive
drowsy
famished
forecast
hibernate
migrate
nestle
observe
prepare
reduce
severe
venture

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 almost never see woodchucks in winter?

2. What **preparations** does a woodchuck make for winter?

3. How does the woodchuck's appearance change as winter **approaches**?

4. How does a woodchuck feel just before it begins its long sleep?

5. How do woodchucks keep from freezing during the winter months?

6. What might the temperature be during a **severe** winter?

7. How do we know that a woodchuck needs only a little oxygen during its winter sleep?

8. What does the woodchuck do when it gets into its **burrow**?

9. How does the woodchuck's size change over the winter?

10. What is the meaning of **observe** as it is used in the passage?

11. Why is the woodchuck **famished** when it wakes up in early spring?

12. What was unusual about Punxsutawney Phil?

13. What is supposed to happen on Groundhog Day?

14. What do many northern birds do to escape the winter?

15. Why do gardeners think woodchucks are **destructive**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

French, Spanish, and Italian are Latin languages. This means that many of their words come directly from the Latin that people throughout the Roman Empire spoke two thousand years ago. For example, you learned the Latin word *hibernum*, meaning *winter*. The French word for *winter*, *hiver*, also comes from Latin.

When modern science began several hundred years ago, there was a need for scientific terms, and these were usually formed from Latin, the language of scholars. The word **hibernate** was formed in this way. It means "to go into a sleeplike state during the winter," and comes from the Latin word for *winter*.