

Lesson 4

Word List

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

active
ak' tiv

adj. 1. Taking part; working.

Luis has been an **active** member of the chess club for two years.

2. Lively; quick; busy.

Even though she is over ninety, Dr. O'Brien still has a very **active** mind.

3. Moving a lot; moving quickly.

Since I've been more physically **active**, I can run around the track more easily.

astound
ə stound'

v. To surprise; to amaze.

The United States **astounded** the world in 1969 by landing people on the moon.

astounding *adj.* Very surprising.

The report of flying saucers landing on the White House lawn would be **astounding** if it were true.

attend
ə tend'

v. 1. To go to or be present at.

If you are planning to **attend** the lunchroom committee meeting, please let Mr. Minh know.

2. To pay attention to.

The judge asked the jury to **attend** carefully to what she was going to say.

cherish
cher' ish

v. 1. To cling to an idea or feeling.

Ramona **cherished** the hope that her father would return soon.

2. To take good care of; to love.

I **cherish** the gold watch my grandfather gave me.

contract
kən trakt'

v. 1. To make an agreement that has the force of law.

We **contracted** with carpenters to repair the stairs.

2. To get; to come to have.

When I **contracted** chicken pox, Dr. Robey told me I had to stay away from other people.

3. To make or become smaller.

By 1828, Cherokee lands had **contracted** to one-tenth the size they had been a hundred years earlier.

n. (kən' trakt) An agreement that has the force of law.

Tom has just signed a **contract** with a publisher for his first book on the copper miners.

eager
ē' gər

adj. Wanting very much.

We were **eager** to take part in the science project.

eagerly *adv.* With a great deal of enthusiasm, wanting.

We **eagerly** awaited the arrival of our cousins, whom we hadn't seen in several months.

expose
ek spōz'

v. 1. To make known.

In her weekly newspaper column, Molly Ivins **exposed** the plan to cut health benefits.

2. To open to view.

Cleaning the painting **exposed** the original colors.

3. To leave unprotected.

Since I had no place to keep my bike, I had to leave it outside, **exposed** to the weather.

grace

grās

n. 1. Beauty of form or movement.

Margot Fonteyn danced with such **grace** that she was hailed as one of the world's greatest ballerinas.

2. A short prayer said before a meal.

They always say **grace** in her family.

3. An extra period to do or pay something.

The painters had three days **grace** to finish the house.

graceful *adj.* Having beauty of movement.

With a **graceful** leap, the cat landed on my lap.

impose

im pōz'

v. 1. To force someone to accept or put up with.

The new coach **imposed** strict rules about arriving late or leaving practice early.

2. To take unfair advantage of.

I try not to **impose** on my mother's good nature.

modest

mä' dəst

adj. 1. Not thinking too highly of oneself.

Nadia was too **modest** to accept all the credit for her part in producing the play.

2. Simple; not fancy or extreme.

The Wallmans lived in the same **modest** apartment all their lives.

modesty *n.* The quality of being modest.

My sense of **modesty** keeps me from taking too much credit for the project's success.

parallel

par' ə lel

adj. Lying in the same direction and always the same distance apart.

The two edges of a ruler are **parallel**.

paralyze

par' ə līz

v. 1. To stop all movement or feeling in.

As the huge wave approached, fear **paralyzed** people walking at the water's edge and they stood there motionless.

2. To make helpless or powerless.

The snowstorm **paralyzed** Washington D.C. for five days.

paralysis (pə ra' lə səs) *n.* Condition of being paralyzed.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a wheelchair because of the **paralysis** of his legs.

pessimist

pe' sə mist

n. A person who expects things to turn out badly.

A **pessimist** carries an umbrella even though the forecast is for fine weather.

pessimistic *adj.* Not having hope, joy, or confidence; gloomy.

After losing her librarian's job, Ms. Merkelson was **pessimistic** about finding another library position in the same town.

recite

ri sīt'

v. To say aloud before an audience, usually from memory.

Rozzie **recited** her favorite Emily Dickinson poem to the class.

recital *n.* A program of music or dance.

I felt very nervous before my ballet **recital**.

respond

ri spānd'

v. To answer.

When you want to **respond** to a question, please raise your hand.

response *n.* Something said or done in reply.

Henry took a few moments to think before giving his **response** to Mr. Bartlett's question.

4A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 4. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) to love that person. (c) To expose someone is
 (b) To cherish someone is (d) to fear that person.

2. (a) A response is (c) Paralysis is
 (b) an increase in size. (d) an answer.

3. (a) that causes shock and surprise. (c) An eager reply is one
 (b) An astounding reply is one (d) that is not spoken.

4. (a) To contract is (c) to make an agreement.
 (b) To attend is (d) to be afraid.

5. (a) are not hidden from view. (c) Parallel beams
 (b) Exposed beams (d) meet at a corner.

6. (a) To attend a speech is (c) to make changes in it.
 (b) To recite a speech is (d) to be present at it.

7. (a) affects an interest in something. (c) A pessimistic person
 (b) An eager person (d) is quick to take part in something.

8. (a) Graceful lines are (c) the same distance apart.
 (b) Parallel lines are (d) curving away from each other.

9. (a) a loss of the ability to move. (c) a belief that things will turn out badly.
 (b) Modesty is (d) Paralysis is

10. (a) A recital is
(b) a written agreement.

(c) A pessimist is
(d) one who is gloomy.

11. (a) Grace is
(b) Modesty is

(c) beauty of movement.
(d) failing to do what is right.

4B 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 4.

1. Where the paint has peeled off the house, the wood will be **left unprotected** and unable to stand up to scorching summer heat and severe winter cold.
2. The magician promised that his next trick would **create great amazement in us**.
3. Eleanor Roosevelt's **lack of feelings of self-importance** impressed all who knew her.
4. Heavy snow **stopped the movement of** traffic in Denver for two days.
5. The librarian gave me one week's **extra time** to pay the fine.
6. Only about half of the members of the gardening club are **taking part in what is going on**.
7. Unfortunately, my roommate is a **person who usually expects things to turn out badly**, so he's not a very cheerful person to live with.
8. I was afraid I was **forcing myself on them** when I stayed an extra week at the Mendelssohns.
9. The pupil of the eye **becomes smaller** in bright light.
10. Did you **give your attention** to the dinner invitation from Aunt Helen?

active
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paralyze
pessimist
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respond

4C 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 could a person **attend**?

(a) a benefit	(c) a meeting
(b) a concert	(d) a remark

2. Which of the following can be **contracted**?
- (a) an illness (c) muscles
(b) the pupils of the eyes (d) a habit
3. Which of the following requires a person to be **active**?
- (a) playing hockey (c) walking the dog
(b) washing windows (d) watching television
4. Which of the following can be **paralyzed**?
- (a) a person's lower limbs (c) a person's hair
(b) a person's body (d) a person's clothes
5. Which of the following might a **modest** person say?
- (a) "I had very little to do with it." (c) "You deserve all the credit."
(b) "Please don't bother to thank me." (d) "I am the greatest!"
6. Which of the following might a **pessimistic** person say?
- (a) "Everything will be all right." (c) "We're bound to lose."
(b) "It's no use trying." (d) "Next time we'll try harder."
7. Which of the following are **parallel**?
- (a) the opposite sides of a square (c) the letters A, E, and O
(b) the three sides of a triangle (d) the numbers 1, 2, and 3
8. Which of the following would you expect to be **graceful**?
- (a) a beginning skier (c) a Broadway dancer
(b) an Olympic diver (d) an Olympic skater

10 Word Study

Look at the words below. Circle the two words that are synonyms in each group of four.

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. astound | amaze | benefit | lack |
| 2. remember | observe | forget | notice |
| 3. mammoth | huge | mature | eager |
| 4. severe | eager | willing | drowsy |
| 5. expose | cherish | love | prepare |

Circle the two words that are antonyms in each group of four below.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| 6. pessimistic | remarkable | sufficient | hopeful |
| 7. drowsy | modest | complete | active |
| 8. boastful | destructive | famished | modest |
| 9. recite | expose | impose | hide |
| 10. approach | migrate | enlarge | reduce |

4E Pa

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

One Step at a Time

Sucheng Chan was an **active** child who loved to run outside and play with the other children in the village in China where she was born. But in 1943, when she was four years old, she **contracted** polio, a childhood disease that can make people very sick and often causes **paralysis**. The muscles in her legs slowly wasted away, and she could no longer run or even walk. The doctors were **pessimistic** about her chances of living more than a year or two. They did not know what a determined person Sucheng Chan was.

After lying helplessly in bed for three years, Sucheng Chan surprised her mother one day by asking her to set up some chairs in two **parallel** lines, their backs facing. She then forced herself out of bed and made her way between the chairs, using their backs as support. She did this time after time, her body aching from many falls.

China was at war with Japan during these years, and Sucheng Chan's father was serving in the army, unable to see his family. He **cherished** his daughter, and it saddened him that he could not give her the comfort and support she needed. When the war ended and he returned home, he was **astounded** to see Sucheng Chan walk up to him and welcome him. Her movements were jerky and not at all **graceful**, but to her father there had never been such a beautiful sight.

Sucheng Chan had always been a bright child who was **eager** to go to school. But in those days in China education was not free, and her parents had only a **modest** income. Sucheng Chan was eight years old before they had saved enough money for her to **attend** the American school in Shanghai. There she learned to speak English and began a lifelong study of Asian history.

In 1948, at the end of Sucheng Chan's first year in school, China's government became communist. The new government **imposed** strict rules forbidding contact with foreigners. One result of these measures was that the American school was closed. Sucheng Chan and her parents grew increasingly unhappy. They decided to leave China and settle in Malaysia.

Sucheng Chan's teenage years, which she spent in a Malaysian high school, were the happiest of her life. She did very well in school and took piano lessons, sometimes giving **recitals** for visitors. Once, while walking across the stage, her legs gave way and she fell. She heard a voice say, "Ayah! A baikah (cripple) should not **expose** herself like that." Sucheng Chan's **response** was to struggle to her feet, walk to the piano, sit down, and play so beautifully that the audience was moved to tears.

After graduating from high school, Sucheng Chan went on to win scholarships to the University of Hawaii. She later became a professor of history and director of Asian American studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, leading a full and active life. Doctors told her that she might need a wheelchair by the time she was forty because polio can come back, causing more damage to muscles. They were right. But, she said, "I use it only when I am *not* in a hurry."

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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. Why didn't Sucheng Chan go to school until she was eight?

2. Why did it become impossible for Sucheng Chan to run outside and play?

3. Did her doctors expect Sucheng Chan to get better?

4. What usually happens to people who **contract** polio?

5. What is the meaning of **active** as it is used in the passage?

6. How does the passage suggest that her father often thought of Sucheng Chan while he was away?

7. Why was Sucheng Chan's father **astounded** when he saw his daughter after the war?

8. Why wasn't Sucheng Chan **graceful**?

9. How did Sucheng Chan feel about going to school?

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

11. Why don't **parallel** lines ever meet?

12. Why do you think China **imposed** rules against contact with foreigners?

13. How can you tell that Sucheng Chan played the piano well?

14. What did the person who remarked that Sucheng Chan "should not **expose** herself like that" expect her to do?

15. What might Sucheng Chan's **response** have been if she were not such a determined person?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning. The antonym of *contract* in its meaning of "to make or become smaller" is *expand*. Metals contract as they get colder; they expand as they get warmer.

Pessimist and *optimist* are another pair of antonyms. An *optimist* has a cheerful outlook on life

and expects things to go well. *Pessimist* is formed from the Latin word *pessimus*, which means "worst." *Optimist* is formed from the Latin word *optimus*, which means "best." There is a saying that a pessimist is a person who looks upon the glass as being half-empty; an optimist is a person who looks upon it as being half-full.