

Lesson 8

Word List

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

ancient

ān' chənt

adj. Very old; of a long time ago.

The **ancient** city of Carthage was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C.

century

sen' chər ē

n. A period of one hundred years.

The twenty-first **century** began on January 1, 2001.

chamber

chām' bər

n. A room.

Chamber music is meant to be played in a room rather than a much larger concert hall.

chambers *n. pl.* An office or group of offices.

Lawyers for both sides met in the judge's **chambers**.

descend

dī send'

v. To go or come down.

The plane slowly **descended** to 2,000 feet.

descendant *n.* One who has certain persons as one's parents, grandparents, etc.

The writer Alex Haley was a **descendant** of Kunta Kinte, who was brought to America as a slave from West Africa in 1767.

entry

en' trē

n. 1. A way in.

The thieves gained **entry** through an unlocked window.

2. Each separate item in a diary or list.

The next **entry** in her diary simply said, "My brother returned home today after a long absence."

interior

in tīr' ē ət

n. The inside part of something.

The sun's **interior** is about 150,000 times hotter than boiling water.

adj. Having to do with the inside part.

Interior doors do not have to be as strongly made as front or back doors.

intrude

in trūd'

v. To come or go in without permission or welcome.

I didn't mean to **intrude** on you while you were working.

intrusion *n.* The act of intruding.

"Forgive my **intrusion**," she said as she came in without knocking.

intruder *n.* One who intrudes.

People were so unfriendly that I felt like an **intruder** at Jeff's party.

locate

lō' kāt

v. 1. To find.

Marta **located** the missing books in less than an hour.

2. To put or to be found in a place.

We're going to **locate** our office across the street from the school.

location (lō' kā' shən) *n.* The place where something can be found.

Will you please give me the **location** of the nearest post office?

passage
pa' sij

- n.* 1. A part of a written work or piece of music.
The final **passage** of the Mozart mass brought tears to the audience's eyes.
2. The act or process of passing, as through time or from place to place.
His deeply lined face clearly showed the **passage** of time.
3. A way through which to pass.
Leon's room was at the end of a long, dimly lit **passage**.

portion
pōr' shən

- n.* 1. A part or share of the whole.
I got the first **portion** of my allowance last week.
2. A serving or helping, as of food.
My diet recommends a four-ounce **portion** of fish or chicken once a day.

precious
pre' shəs

- adj.* 1. Very valuable.
The necklace was made of diamonds, emeralds, and other **precious** stones.
2. Much loved.
She tried in vain to save her **precious** books from the fire.

quarry
kwōr' ē

- n.* 1. A deep pit where stone is cut out of the ground.
The marble for these tiles came from a **quarry** in Vermont.
2. An animal that is being hunted.
The hunters gave up the chase when they lost sight of their **quarry**.

ramp
ramp

- n.* A slanted walk or roadway that connects a lower to a higher place.
The law says that there has to be a **ramp** for those who cannot use the steps.

spacious
spā' shəs

- adj.* Having lots of room.
The **spacious** kitchen had room for a large round table that seated eight.

surface
sūr' fəs

- n.* 1. The outside layer; the top.
The **surface** of the moon is covered with craters.
2. An outward look or appearance.
He seemed cheerful on the **surface**, but I knew how miserable he must have felt to be so cold and wet.
- v.* To rise to the top of a body of water.
The latest submarines can stay underwater for weeks before they need to **surface**.

8A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 8. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) Interior walls are
(b) those on the inside.
- (c) those that surround a private area.
(d) Ancient walls are
-
2. (a) The passage of something is
(b) The surface of something is
- (c) its outward appearance.
(d) its innermost part.
-

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. (a) A spacious city is one
(b) that has many visitors. | (c) that is very old.
(d) An ancient city is one |
| 4. (a) A passage is
(b) a free pass to a public event. | (c) An intrusion is
(d) a way through which to go. |
| 5. (a) Something that is spacious
(b) Something that is precious | (c) is very valuable.
(d) seems true but is actually false. |
| 6. (a) a sloping walkway.
(b) A quarry is | (c) A ramp is
(d) a contest. |
| 7. (a) an unwelcome arrival.
(b) a serving of food. | (c) A location is
(d) An intrusion is |
| 8. (a) A portion is
(b) A quarry is | (c) a pit from which stone is cut.
(d) a building open to the public. |
| 9. (a) To locate the stairs is
(b) to go down them. | (c) to go up them.
(d) To descend the stairs is |
| 10. (a) A portion is
(b) A chamber is | (c) a large room.
(d) the topmost part. |

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8B 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 8.

1. Our new apartment has a closet that is **very large**, with room enough to hold a fold-up bed.
2. The United States has enough coal to last for at least a **period of one hundred years**.
3. The divers were searching for the **exact spot** of the sunken treasure.

4. To enter the parking garage you have to drive up the **sloping way** leading to a higher level.
5. The lion's **intended victim** was a young antelope.
6. As we approached the clubhouse, we saw that the only **way in** was blocked by a huge pile of snow.
7. Angela told me she would pay back a **part of the total amount** of the money she owed me by next week.
8. These are the **group of offices** where Senate hearings are held.
9. The **process of passing** of time could be seen in the crumbling stone buildings and rutted streets.
10. A large bullfrog suddenly **rose to the top of the water** and landed on a lily pad.

8C 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 might be thought of as **precious**?

(a) a child	(c) a diamond ring
(b) freedom of speech	(d) chewing gum stuck to your shoe
2. Which of the following is **ancient**?

(a) a joke you've heard before	(c) an Egyptian mummy
(b) last year's calendar	(d) a dinosaur bone
3. Which of the following might an **intruder** at a private meeting be asked to do?

(a) help give out the notes	(c) leave immediately
(b) join in the talk	(d) meet the other people
4. Which of the following might a person try to **locate**?

(a) a problem with a car's engine	(c) a missing relative
(b) the city of New York on a map	(d) a secret
5. Which of the following might you ask for a **portion** of?

(a) a friend's jacket	(c) cole slaw
(b) the Sunday newspaper	(d) a friend's age

6. Which of the following has an **interior**?

- (a) a planet (c) a house
(b) a sheet of paper (d) a car

7. Which of the following can be measured in **centuries**?

- (a) the age of the United States (c) time
(b) the size of the United States (d) space

8. Which of the following has a **surface**?

- (a) a sharp pain (c) a lake
(b) a coat of paint (d) the sun

8D Word Study

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

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|--------------|-------|----------|
| 1. spacious | _____ | valuable |
| 2. precious | _____ | old |
| 3. keen | _____ | grasp |
| 4. ancient | _____ | improve |
| 5. applaud | _____ | change |
| 6. locate | _____ | eager |
| 7. alter | _____ | roomy |
| 8. seize | _____ | hug |
| 9. embrace | _____ | cheer |
| 10. progress | _____ | find |

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8E Passage

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

The Great Pyramid

Over two thousand years ago, a Greek writer named Antipater made a list of what he called the Seven Wonders of the World. The only one of those **ancient** sights that remains today is the Great Pyramid, in Egypt.

The Great Pyramid is **located** just outside Cairo. It was built by one of the earliest kings of Egypt, who intended it to be a tomb, or burial place, for himself. Covering an area bigger than one hundred football fields and standing 450 feet high, it is the largest of the more than sixty pyramids in Egypt. It is made of two and a half million blocks of stone, some of which weigh as much as fifteen tons. Its **surface** was once covered in shining white limestone and was perfectly smooth, but over the **centuries** most of this has been stripped away and very little of it is left.

It may have taken as long as twenty years to build the Great Pyramid. The stone came from nearby, while the white limestone on the outside came from **quarries** near the Nile River. The blocks were floated across on rafts and were then dragged up a **ramp** of earth that was built up in stages as the work progressed. Skilled stonecutters worked all year on the pyramid. Other work was done by farmers, who worked for a **portion** of each year, probably from July to October, when the Nile overflowed its banks and flooded the fields. Workers believed that their king, Cheops, was a god, a **descendant** of the sun god Ra, and that he deserved this magnificent tomb.

The **interior** of the Great Pyramid contains many rooms, connected by **passages** leading to the outside. King Cheops was laid to rest in one of the most **spacious** rooms. The Egyptians believed in a life after death, and so they left food and drink with the king's body as well as many **precious** objects he had used in daily life. The Egyptians believed he would need these in the next world.

The **chamber** in which the dead king lay was closed off with huge granite slabs to keep people from gaining **entry** to it. In spite of this, however, **intruders** later found a way in and stole the gold objects and the jewels that were inside. They even made off with the body! The Great Pyramid failed to keep Cheops's body safe, but it has kept his name alive over 4,500 years after his death.

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. What makes the Great Pyramid unusual among the places on Antipater's list?

2. How could one go from room to room within the Great Pyramid?

3. Why would the **interior** of the Great Pyramid be very dark?

4. How did the Egyptians raise the stones onto the pyramid?

5. Why did the white limestone have to come by water?

6. Why did some people work on the pyramid for only a **portion** of the year?

7. How does the room where the king's body was placed compare with other rooms?

8. Why do you think the passage refers to the king's room as a **chamber**?

9. What are some of the **precious** objects that might have been left with the dead king?

10. Why did the Egyptians place granite slabs outside the king's tomb?

11. What happened to the gold and the jewels that were inside the tomb?

12. When (to the nearest hundred years) was the Great Pyramid built?

13. Why did the Egyptians think Cheops deserved such a magnificent tomb?

14. How does the Great Pyramid differ from when it was first built?

15. What is the **location** of Cairo?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

In Lesson 7 you learned that the Greek word for “eight” is *okto*. In Latin, it became *octo*. (An *octopus* has eight arms. *October* was the eighth month in the Roman calendar; we changed it and made it the tenth month.)

A large number of English words are formed from Greek or Latin numbers. Among them is our word **century**, a period of one hundred years. It comes from the Latin for one hundred, which is *centum*. Other words sharing this root include *cent* (there are one hundred cents in a dollar), *centipede* (this creature was once thought to have one hundred legs, but it actually has about seventy), and *centimeter* (there are one hundred centimeters in a meter).

In 1976 the United States celebrated its *bicentennial*. If you knew nothing of the history of the United States, but knew that the Latin for “two” is *bi*, could you figure out how old the United States was in 1976?

How can the word **quarry** have two such separate and unrelated meanings? For the answer to this

question, we must look into the word’s history. In fact, it is not one word but two quite different ones that by chance have the same spelling.

The word for an animal being hunted comes from the old French *cuiree*, the name for body parts fed to animals after a successful hunt. The word passed into English as *querre*, which in modern English became *quarry*.

The word for a deep pit where stone is cut out of the ground comes from the Latin *quadrum*, which means “squared at the corners.” It was applied to stones used for building, which were usually squared at the corners. As the word changed over time to *quarry*, it came to mean the place from which the stone was obtained.