

Lesson 18

Word List

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

animated

an' ə māt əd

adj. 1. Alive or seeming to be alive.

The movie combines **animated** cartoon figures with live actors.

2. Full of energy; lively.

The class discussion became quite **animated** when we talked about raising the driving age.

betray

bē trā'

v. 1. To be disloyal to.

Members of the Underground Railroad could be counted on not to **betray** escaping slaves to their owners.

2. To show; to reveal.

Jonas insisted that he wasn't upset, but his tears **betrayed** his true feelings.

convince

kən vins'

v. To make someone feel sure or certain; to persuade.

I tried to **convince** my parents that I was old enough to be left alone in the house.

decline

dē klīn'

v. 1. To slope or pass to a lower level.

The path **declines** sharply here, then rises.

2. To refuse to accept.

Olga **declined** my offer of a ride to school because she wanted to walk.

3. To become less or weaker.

Tiny Tim's health could **decline**, the ghost told Scrooge, if no one did anything to help.

n. 1. A change to a smaller amount or lower level.

The **decline** in attendance at the ballpark worries the team's owners.

2. A loss of strength or power.

The **decline** of the Roman Empire is the subject of a famous book by Edward Gibbon.

hilarious

hi lar' ē əs

adj. Very funny.

The comedian's **hilarious** jokes had us all in stitches.

likeness

lik' nəs

n. The state of being similar; something that is similar.

Your **likeness** to your sister is remarkable.

meager

mē' ger

adj. Poor in quality or insufficient in amount.

A stale crust of bread makes a **meager** meal.

mischief

mis' chif

n. 1. Harm or damage.

Our neighbor's meddling in other people's affairs caused a lot of **mischief**.

2. Behavior that causes harm or trouble.

Their **mischief** during class will get them in trouble.

3. Playfulness; harmless amusement.

Hiding her mother's hat was just the child's **mischief**.

mischievous *adj.* (mis' chə vəs) Playful in a naughty way.

The **mischievous** cat pawed at the dog's tail.

negotiate

ni gō' shē āt

v. 1. To arrange by talking over.

The teachers are meeting with the school board to **negotiate** a new contract.

2. To travel successfully along or over.

This slope has some difficult sections that only accomplished skiers can **negotiate**.

obsolete
äb sə lēt'

adj. No longer sold or in wide use because it is out-of-date.
Compact discs made records nearly **obsolete**.

retain
rē tān'

v. 1. To hold onto; to keep possession of.
Because of today's victory, we **retained** our position at the top of the girls' hockey league.
2. To hire the services of.
The airline **retained** its own safety experts to investigate the wing fractures.

sensation
sen sã' shən

n. 1. A feeling that comes from stimulation of the senses.
Drinking hot cocoa after two hours of sledding gave us a warm **sensation**.
2. A feeling of great interest or excitement or the cause of such a feeling.
The appearance at our school of the basketball star caused a **sensation**.
sensational *adj.* 1. Causing great curiosity and interest.
The **sensational** headline led me to buy the newspaper.
2. Very great or excellent.
With your quick mind, you'll make a **sensational** addition to the debating team.

somber
sãm' bər

adj. 1. Dark; gloomy.
We began our hike under a **somber** sky; fortunately, the sun came out in the afternoon.
2. Sad; serious.
Grandfather's death put us in a **somber** mood.

subsequent
süb' sə kwənt

adj. Coming later; following.
The first book in the series was a disappointment, but **subsequent** ones have been very enjoyable.

vow
vəu

v. To promise seriously.
The rescue workers **vowed** to continue working until all those trapped in the building were freed.
n. A pledge; a promise.
When my parents became citizens of the United States, they made a **vow** to support this country.

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18A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 18. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- (a) A hilarious story is

(b) A mischievous story is

(c) one that could cause trouble.

(d) one that expresses optimism.
- (a) An animated speech is

(b) one that is very lively.

(c) A somber speech is

(d) one that is reassuring.
- (a) To convince someone is to

(b) make a promise to that person.

(c) persuade that person.

(d) To betray someone is to

4. (a) A sensation is
(b) A vow is
(c) a serious promise.
(d) a serious weakness.
5. (a) To betray someone
(b) To negotiate with someone
(c) is to avoid that person.
(d) is to be disloyal to that person.
6. (a) To retain a lawyer's services
(b) is to decide not to use them.
(c) To decline a lawyer's services
(d) is to terminate them.
7. (a) one that is very funny.
(b) one that costs a lot of money.
(c) An obsolete form of entertainment is
(d) A hilarious form of entertainment is
8. (a) To retain a contract is to
(b) To negotiate a contract is to
(c) arrange it by talking it over.
(d) sign it.
9. (a) that causes great excitement.
(b) A sensational costume is one
(c) A meager costume is one
(d) that is no longer in use.
10. (a) A subsequent meeting
(b) is one that provokes laughter.
(c) A somber meeting
(d) is one that is very serious.

18B 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 18.

1. My parents **hired the services of** a tutor to help me with my math.
2. Ten dollars seems a **very small** amount for doing such a lot of work.
3. Dial telephones are now **no longer used very much**.
4. When I met Sara's brother, I immediately noticed his **similarity in appearance** to her.
5. His nervous glances at the clock **gave away** his attempt to hide his anxiety.

6. The Cuddlibear was a **cause of great excitement** at the toy fair.
7. **Traveling successfully over** the icy road during the snowstorm was a challenge for me.
8. Reporting false emergencies to the police and similar **behavior that causes trouble** will result in severe punishment.
9. We discussed the matter at a **meeting that took place after the first** meeting.
10. Angela **made a serious promise** to be more patient with her younger brother.

18C 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 can one **retain**?
- (a) a lawyer (c) one's youth
(b) one's pride (d) one's memories
2. Which of the following can be a **sensation**?
- (a) warmth (c) ice
(b) cold (d) fire
3. Which of the following is a **somber** color?
- (a) bright red (c) pale pink
(b) dark green (d) deep brown
4. Which of the following might **decline**?
- (a) a pathway (c) prices
(b) one's health (d) winter
5. Which of the following could one **betray**?
- (a) one's true feelings (c) one's country
(b) a trust (d) one's friends
6. Which of the following might one **vow** to do?
- (a) sneeze (c) protect someone
(b) love someone (d) go shopping with someone

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7. Which of the following is **animated**?

- (a) a carcass (c) a cartoon film
(b) a sleeping child (d) a comic book

8. Which of the following is likely to cause **mischief**?

- (a) reassuring a classmate (c) helping a friend
(b) provoking a quarrel (d) taunting a companion

18D Word Study

Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meaning. This means that writers are always having to make choices. Which of several words with similar meaning is the right one? The good writer chooses the one that belongs in the sentence better than any of its synonyms.

Here are five words that have the same or similar meaning:

disturbance **rebellion** **riot** **uprising** **uproar**

Complete the following sentences by writing each of these words in the space where you think it fits best.

- The prison _____ ended peacefully after the governor met with the inmates.
- The _____ began with an attack on the presidential residence.
- The person who caused the _____ was asked to leave the lecture hall.
- President Washington sent troops to put down the 1794 _____.
- When the mouse escaped, it caused a(n) _____ in the classroom.

Here are five more words that have the same or similar meaning:

sore **tender** **aching** **painful** **agonizing**

Complete the following sentences by writing each of these words in the space where you think it fits best.

- The doctor pressed the patient's abdomen to see if it felt _____.
- A(n) _____ tooth may be the first sign of a cavity.
- Soaking in a hot tub helps to ease _____ muscles.
- It is very _____ when I try to walk on my injured ankle.
- A severe burn can be _____ for the victim.

18E Passage

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

A Mouse Is Born

In 1927, Walt Disney worked in the movie business, producing short **animated** cartoons. He had started his own film company in Los Angeles four years before, at the age of twenty-one, with five hundred dollars borrowed from a relative. During those four years, his business provided him with a **meager** living, and he worked hard on his films, struggling to pay off the debt.

His cartoons were about a character called Oswald, the Lucky Rabbit. A film distributor in New York had been buying his films and renting them to movie houses. The distributor could make a big profit if a film was successful, but Disney was paid a fixed amount for each movie; he got no share of the profits. When the contract with the distributor came to an end, Walt Disney decided to go to New York with his wife, Lilly, to **negotiate** a better deal for himself.

At the meeting, the distributor not only **declined** all of Disney's proposals, but also told the young filmmaker that he would reduce the payments he was making for each cartoon. He knew very well that Disney had no money to pay lawyers to fight him in the courts. Even worse, the distributor boasted that he had secretly hired Disney's own artists to do the drawings for future Oswald movies. Disney was bitter that the distributor had **betrayed** him, but there was nothing he could do about it. He **vowed** never to sell another of his movies to anyone. He would rent them to distributors, but in the future he would **retain** ownership.

Walt Disney was in a **somber** mood when he and Lilly boarded the train for Los Angeles. During the long journey across the country, he decided to create a new character to take the place of Oswald. After making a few marks on paper, he showed Lilly a sketch of a mouse. Immediately she noticed the **likeness** between her husband and the creature he had drawn; both had a look of harmless **mischief**. She was **convinced** that audiences would love the little mouse with the happy face, but she was dismayed when her husband told her he planned to name it Mortimer. That just didn't sound right to her. "What about Mickey?" she suggested. "Mickey Mouse."

As soon as he arrived in Los Angeles, Walt Disney went to work on the first Mickey Mouse cartoons. He had completed two and was working on *Steamboat Willie*, his third, when sound began to be added to movies. Suddenly silent movies were **obsolete**. Disney promptly added a soundtrack to *Steamboat Willie*. The shrill voice of Mickey was supplied by Walt Disney himself.

When the movie opened in New York in September 1928, it was a **sensation**. Audiences roared with laughter at Mickey's **hilarious** adventures, and **subsequent** movies starring the lovable little mouse were equally successful at the box office. In just three years Walt Disney's company was worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and Mickey Mouse was famous.

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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 would you describe Walt Disney's income in 1927?

2. What work did Walt Disney do?

3. What is the meaning of **sensation** as it is used in the passage?

4. Why did Disney want to meet with the distributor?

5. Why didn't Disney get a lawyer and sue the New York distributor?

6. How did the distributor respond to Disney's proposals for a new contract?

7. What is the meaning of **betrayed** as it is used in the passage?

8. What **mischief** did the distributor boast of to Disney?

9. What is the meaning of **somber** as it is used in the passage?

10. What lesson did Disney learn from his experience with the distributor?

11. What did Lilly notice about the little mouse Walt Disney had drawn?

12. Why do you think silent movies became **obsolete**?

13. What did Lilly do when her husband suggested the name of Mortimer Mouse?

14. How many Disney movies, after *Steamboat Willie*, had sound?

15. Why did audiences enjoy *Steamboat Willie*?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Latin word for both “air” and “breath” is *anima*. It provides the root of several English words having to do with being alive, which seems natural since all *animals* must breathe in order to live. **Animated** figures in movie cartoons seem to be alive, while something that is *inanimate* lacks life. Stones, cars, coat hangers, and television sets are all *inanimate* objects.

The adjective **somber** comes from the Latin word for “shade,” which is *umbra*. Other words formed

from this root include *umbrella*, which not only keeps off the rain but provides shade in bright sunlight, and *sombrero*, a Spanish or Mexican broad-brimmed hat worn to provide shade for the face.