

# Lesson 19

## Word List

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

**dormant**  
dôr' mǎnt

*adj.* 1. In a sleeplike state.  
Ground hogs remain **dormant** through the winter.  
2. Not active, but able to become active.  
Japan's Mount Fuji is a **dormant** volcano.

**elegant**  
el' ə gənt

*adj.* Graceful or refined in appearance or behavior.  
The tiny curved numbers and the slender hands made the old silver watch an **elegant** timepiece.

**erupt**  
ē rupt'

*v.* To burst forth violently.  
The queen **erupted** in anger when told she must abdicate.  
**eruption** *n.* A violent bursting forth.  
The **eruption** of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 caused immense damage.

**excavate**  
eks' kə vāt

*v.* 1. To dig out.  
The backhoe will **excavate** this spot near the pine tree to create the basement of our new house.  
2. To uncover by digging.  
Heinrich Schliemann began to **excavate** the ancient city of Troy in 1871.  
**excavation** *n.* The place formed by digging or the process of digging out.  
The **excavation** of Cahuachi, Peru, uncovered many pieces of pottery from the ancient Nazca culture.

**expel**  
ek spel'

*v.* 1. To eject; to release, as from a container.  
Electric cars help keep the air clean because they don't **expel** poisonous gases.  
2. To force to leave.  
The school reserves the right to **expel** students for serious offenses.

**fume**  
fyoom

*n.* (usually plural) A disagreeable smoke or gas.  
**Fumes** from passing trucks and buses have damaged the oak trees.  
*v.* To feel or show anger or resentment.  
My father **fumed** when he discovered that I had left my bicycle out in the rain all night.

**molten**  
mōlt' n

*adj.* Made liquid by heat; melted.  
At Colonial Williamsburg, we watched women make tapers by pouring **molten** wax into thin molds.

**painstaking**  
pānz' tāk in

*adj.* Showing or taking great care or effort.  
After a **painstaking** search of the house, we found our missing car keys.

**perish**  
per' ish

*v.* To die; to be killed or destroyed.  
Approximately ten million people **perished** in World War I.

**population**

pāp yōō lā' shən

*n.* 1. The total number of people in a certain place.The **population** of the town declined by almost a quarter over the past decade.

2. The total number of plants or animals in a certain area.

The elm tree **population** decreased greatly after the 1930s because of Dutch elm disease.**populate** *v.* To fill with people.The English began to **populate** Australia at the end of the eighteenth century.**prelude**

prel' yōōd

*n.* 1. Something that comes before or introduces the main part.The October frost was a **prelude** to a harsh winter.

2. A short musical piece played as an introduction.

Suzanne played a piano **prelude** for the spring recital.**scald**

skōld

*v.* To burn with hot liquid or steam.Boiling water from the overturned saucepan **scalded** the child's leg.**scalding** *adj.* Very hot.The bath water was **scalding**, so I added some cold water.**stupendous**

stōō pen' dəs

*adj.* Amazing because it is very great or very large.It took a **stupendous** effort to return the beached whales to the water.**suffocate**

suf' ə kāt

*v.* To kill or die by stopping access to air.The trapped miners **suffocated** when their air supply was cut off.**suffocation** *n.* The act or process of suffocating.Keep plastic bags away from young children to avoid any chance of **suffocation**.**tremor**

trem' ər

*n.* 1. A shaking movement.**Tremors** following the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake continued for several weeks.

2. A nervous or excited feeling.

When I heard the front door creak open, a **tremor** of fear ran through me.

dormant

elegant

erupt

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prelude

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stupendous

suffocate

tremor

## 19A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 19. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) forbid people to go into it.  
(b) fill it with people.

- (c) To populate an area is to  
(d) To excavate an area is to

2. (a) To perish  
(b) is to tire easily.

- (c) To fume  
(d) is to die.

3. (a) break up into smaller parts.  
(b) burst out violently.

- (c) To suffocate is to  
(d) To erupt is to

4. (a) An excavated building is one  
(b) An elegant building is one  
(c) that is beautifully designed.  
(d) that has been completely rebuilt.

5. (a) that is amazingly large.  
(b) A painstaking job is one  
(c) A stupendous job is one  
(d) that is very boring.

6. (a) To scald is  
(b) To expel is  
(c) to burn with a hot liquid.  
(d) to taunt.

7. (a) To be painstaking is to  
(b) be careless of others' feelings.  
(c) take very great care.  
(d) To be dormant is to

8. (a) be prevented from getting air.  
(b) be permitted to enter.  
(c) To erupt is to  
(d) To suffocate is to

9. (a) Something that is molten is  
(b) easily damaged.  
(c) made liquid by heat.  
(d) Something that is dormant is

10. (a) Fumes are  
(b) Tremors are  
(c) harmful gases.  
(d) burns caused by hot liquids.

## 19B 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 19.

1. **His being unable to breathe** was the cause of his death.
2. When the pipe broke, there was a sudden **bursting out** of steam.
3. The **total number of people living in the city** of New York is around seven million.
4. Some of the passengers began to **feel very angry** when told the train would be an hour late.
5. Chopin transformed the **short musical piece played as an introduction** into a form that is complete in itself.

6. The maple trees that line the driveway are **in an inactive state with no signs of life** during the winter.
7. Parkinson's disease causes **rapid back and forth shaking movements** in the hands.
8. The Martian volcano known as Olympus Mons is **amazing because of its great size**.
9. The **process of digging a hole in the ground** revealed the remains of an ancient Chinese temple.
10. The school suspended the minor offenders, but those guilty of major offenses were **forced to leave for good**.

## 19C 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 be **excavated**?
 

(a) a hole	(c) soil
(b) a secret	(d) a buried city
  
2. Which of the following can be **dormant**?
 

(a) a volcano	(c) a tree
(b) a rock	(d) an animal
  
3. Which of the following can **scald** someone?
 

(a) a hot beverage	(c) a hot temper
(b) a hot iron	(d) a hot day
  
4. Which of the following could be **elegant**?
 

(a) an aroma	(c) a meal
(b) a restaurant	(d) a dress
  
5. Which of the following can **perish**?
 

(a) people	(c) hope
(b) time	(d) freedom
  
6. Which of the following can cause **tremors**?
 

(a) a sickness	(c) excitement
(b) an earthquake	(d) fear

dormant  
 elegant  
 erupt  
 excavate  
 expel  
 fume  
 molten  
 painstaking  
 perish  
 population  
 prelude  
 scald  
 stupendous  
 suffocate  
 tremor

7. Which of the following can **erupt**?

- (a) an excited crowd                      (c) an active volcano  
(b) a riot                                      (d) an angry character

8. Which of the following can give off **fumes**?

- (a) a faulty oil furnace                      (c) an angry person  
(b) a car's exhaust                              (d) a lighted oil lamp

## 19D Word Study

The prefix *ex-* means "out" (an exit is a way out).

Supply the missing word in each sentence below. Choose each word from the list given at the end of the exercise.

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ cream from milk is to take the cream out.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to cry out for joy.
3. To become \_\_\_\_\_ is to die out completely.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to try something out to see if it works.
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ something is to send it out of the country.
6. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to spread out.
7. To \_\_\_\_\_ someone is to force that person out.
8. To \_\_\_\_\_ something is to dig it out of the ground.
9. To \_\_\_\_\_ someone is to wear out that person's patience.
10. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to breathe out.

exult	excavate	expel	extract	extinct
export	expand	experiment	exasperate	exhale

## 19E Passage

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

## The Lost City

Two thousand years ago, Pompeii was a prosperous town with a **population** of perhaps twenty thousand people. It was a busy port located on the Sarnus River, near the Bay of Naples, about a hundred and thirty miles south of Rome. Rich landowners and retired Roman citizens built **elegant** homes in the town and paid for its fine public buildings and temples. The town nestled in the shadow of four-thousand-foot high Mount Vesuvius, and the local farmers cultivated grapes in the mountainside's fertile soil as they had done for centuries.

In A.D. 62, the town was shaken by **tremors** from an earthquake; for the next seventeen years, the people worked to repair the damage. They were not then aware of the danger they were in, but if they had known what we know today, that earthquake would have been a warning to them. **Stupendous** forces were slowly building deep beneath the surface; the earthquake was merely the **prelude** to a far worse disaster.

Vesuvius is a volcano, but it had been **dormant** for eight hundred years. There had been no activity during this time because a thick layer of **molten** rock, called lava, had hardened to form a plug, sealing off the mouth of the volcano like a cork in a bottle. Over the centuries, pressure deep below the earth's surface had been slowly building up inside the volcano. On August 24, A.D. 79, it became so great that the plug of lava was suddenly **expelled** in a tremendous explosion.

So violent was the explosion that the top of the mountain was blown off. Cracks appeared in the earth, and water, heated to boiling by fires beneath the earth's crust, thrust its way to the surface. People and animals were **scalded** as they tried to flee. Smoke, poisonous **fumes**, and ash from the volcano filled the air, **suffocating** many people in their homes. Buildings were crushed by huge rocks hurled from the volcano. Then came a series of avalanches that buried the town, together with everything in it, in twenty feet of stones, cinders, and volcanic ash.

A vivid description of the **eruption** of Vesuvius was given by Pliny the Younger, who later became a famous Roman statesman. He was eighteen years old at the time, and he watched the disaster from twenty miles away on the other side of the bay. His uncle sailed to Pompeii to save the lives of some friends, but died during the attempt. Pliny the Younger described the tragic events of that day in letters he wrote many years later.

For centuries Pompeii lay buried and forgotten. It was not until 1763 that the **excavation** of the ruins first began. **Painstaking** digging revealed streets and buildings filled with the objects of everyday life. Also uncovered were the bodies of the more than two thousand people who **perished** on that terrible day nearly two thousand years ago when the sleeping volcano suddenly woke up.

dormant

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painstaking

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population

prelude

scald

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suffocate

tremor

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 did the **excavations** at Pompeii reveal?

2. Why were the citizens of Pompeii unconcerned about Mount Vesuvius?

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

4. What evidence is there that some of Pompeii's people were wealthy?

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

6. What happened when the pressure inside the volcano became too great?

7. Why did the explosion of Vesuvius have such **stupendous** force?

8. What materials were thrust from the volcano when it exploded?

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

10. Why do you think uncovering Pompeii was such **painstaking** work?

11. Why did the underground water from Vesuvius cause deaths and injuries?

12. Why was the air at Pompeii dangerous to breathe?

13. What happened to Pliny the Younger's uncle?

14. How large was Pompeii?

15. What were the three major causes of death at Pompeii?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The dormouse is a European animal resembling a small squirrel. It hibernates in winter. This sleeplike state is what gives it its name: the Latin for "sleep" is *dormire*. The first part of this word combines with *mouse* to form *dormouse*. Other English words formed from this Latin word are **dormant** and *dormitory*, a place where people sleep.

The noun and adjective *perishable* are formed from the verb **perish**. *Perishable* foods spoil quickly,

and *perishables* are any foods, such as tomatoes and lettuce, that spoil quickly.

What do *premature* (Word List 3), *previous* (Word List 5), *predict* (Word List 15), and **prelude** all have in common? All four are formed from the Latin prefix *pre-*, which means "before." And notice where a *prefix* is found. It comes *before* the rest of the word.