

Lesson 1

Word List

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

accustom

ə kus' təm

v. To make familiar.

Every fall the students **accustom** themselves to the new schedule.

accustomed *adj.* 1. Usual.

We sat in our **accustomed** places.

2. Used to.

My eyes soon became **accustomed** to the dark.

alert

ə lɜrt'

adj. Watchful; wide-awake.

The shortstop was not **alert** and missed the catch.

v. To warn to be ready.

A sign **alerted** drivers to the flooded road ahead.

n. A warning signal.

Because of the forest fires, the nearby towns have a fire **alert**.

assign

ə sɪn'

v. 1. To select for a position or for what has to be done.

For this year's basketball team, the coach **assigned** me to play as a forward.

2. To give out, as a piece of work to be done.

Our science teacher usually **assigns** two chapters a week as homework.

assignment *n.* Whatever is given out as work to be done.

What was the **assignment** for tomorrow's history class?

budge

bʌdʒ

v. To move or shift.

The old metal trunk was so heavy we could not **budge** it.

burly

bɜr'le

adj. Big and strongly built.

Most football players are quite **burly**.

companion

kəm pan' yən

n. One who spends time with or does things with another.

My grandmother was always an interesting **companion** when we went to the city for the day.

compatible

kəm pat' ə bəl

adj. Getting along well together.

Julie and I didn't mind sharing a room because we were so **compatible**.

concept

kəns' sept

n. A general idea or thought about something.

In designing the stage set for the school play, I started with the **concept** of a Japanese tea house.

distract

dɪ strakt'

v. To draw one's thoughts or attention away from the subject at hand.

The police sirens **distracted** me, so I didn't hear what you said.

distract *n.* Something that draws one's thoughts or attention away.

I do my homework during study period when there are no **distractions**.

jostle

dʒas' əl

v. To push or shove.

I dropped my packages when someone in the crowd **jostled** me.

obedient

ō be' dē ənt

adj. Doing what one is asked or told.When giving orders, a ship's captain expects the crew to be **obedient**.**obedience** *n.* The state or condition of doing what one is told.We are trying to teach our Labrador retriever **obedience**.**obstacle**

äb' stə kəl

n. Something that prevents one from moving forward.The **obstacle** holding up traffic was a tree blown over by last night's storm.**patient**

pā' shənt

adj. Willing to wait without complaining.The audience was very **patient** even though the show started thirty minutes late.*n.* A person in a doctor's care.The **patients** in this part of the hospital are recovering from operations.**patience** *n.* A willingness to wait for someone or something without complaining.Having to stand in line for an hour to buy tickets really tested my **patience**.**pedestrian**

pə des' trē ən

n. A person who is walking; someone traveling on foot.**Pedestrians** should use the crosswalk to avoid accidents.**retire**

rē tīr'

v. 1. To stop working because one has reached a certain age.The jewelry company usually gives its workers a small gift when they **retire**.

2. To go to bed.

I was not feeling well, so I **retired** early.**retirement** *n.* The state of no longer working.My Uncle Eli regularly saved money for his **retirement**.

1A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Write each sentence in the space provided.

accustom

alert

assign

budge

burly

companion

compatible

concept

distract

jostle

obedient

obstacle

patient

pedestrian

retire

1. (a) become familiar with it.
(b) do it carefully.

- (c) To accustom oneself to something is to
(d) To distract oneself by doing something is to

2. (a) is under a doctor's care.
(b) A patient is a person who

- (c) A companion is one who
(d) gives hope to others.

3. (a) An assignment is
(b) A concept is

- (c) a general idea about something.
(d) something that stands in the way.

4. (a) has traveled a lot.
(b) A pedestrian is someone who

- (c) spends time with another person.
(d) A companion is someone who

8. The camp director **gave out jobs and sent** us to the kitchen crew.
9. You see very few **people out walking** this early in the morning.
10. My sister is more **willing to accept delays without complaining** than I am.

1C 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 an **obstacle**?
- (a) lack of money (c) poor eyesight
(b) a fallen tree (d) a pleasant voice
2. In which of the following places would a **pedestrian** be?
- (a) on the sidewalk (c) in a favorite armchair
(b) inside a car (d) on a plane
3. Which of the following could **distract** someone?
- (a) loud noises (c) dreams
(b) whispering (d) the radio
4. Which of the following usually learn **obedience**?
- (a) dogs (c) cats
(b) soldiers (d) children
5. Which of the following must be **alert**?
- (a) a watchman (c) a driver
(b) a babysitter (d) a pilot
6. Which of the following would you expect to be **compatible**?
- (a) friends (c) enemies
(b) partners (d) teammates
7. Which of the following could be **assigned**?
- (a) jobs (c) seats
(b) rooms (d) birthdays
8. Which of the following might make a good **companion**?
- (a) a dog (c) a friend
(b) a canoe (d) a meal

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1D Word Study

Synonyms are words that have the same or close to the same meaning. *Vanish and disappear* are synonyms. Both words have to do with passing out of sight.

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. budge | warn | shift | accustom |
| 2. distract | return | retire | quit |
| 3. concept | barrier | venture | obstacle |
| 4. warning | light | sound | alert |
| 5. jostle | shove | assign | choose |

Antonyms are pairs of words whose meanings are opposite or nearly opposite to each other. *Rise and fall* are antonyms. Both words have to do with movement, but in different directions.

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 6. alert | drowsy | compatible | patient |
| 7. familiar | slight | alert | burly |
| 8. precious | dreary | unfamiliar | accustomed |
| 9. unsteady | obedient | defiant | watchful |
| 10. assign | retire | jostle | arise |

1E Passage

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

Friends for Life

The **concept** that trained dogs could act as eyes for those who could not see developed at the beginning of the twentieth century in Germany in an unusual school. The pupils were not humans, but dogs who were taught how to lead people who were blind. The idea caught on quickly, and guide dogs, or Seeing Eye dogs as they are also known, began to be trained in many countries. They are now a familiar sight. These **patient** and loyal animals lead their blind **companions** everywhere they go, permitting them to make their way in the world almost as well as sighted persons.

Not every breed of dog makes a good guide. Seeing Eye dogs must be **alert** at all times, so dogs that are easily **distracted** are not suitable. Labrador retrievers, German shepherds, and boxers make excellent guides because they are smart, easy to train, and usually get along well with people. During its training, the dog is taken to many kinds of busy places. This is to get it **accustomed** to anything that might happen. A dog is trained in large stores, noisy airports, and crowded restaurants. It rides on buses and in taxis. It is pushed and poked, and it learns to ignore anything that might cause its attention to wander.

The Seeing Eye dog is responsible for steering its owner carefully past any **obstacles**. On busy sidewalks, the dog must skillfully weave its way around other **pedestrians** to make sure its owner doesn't get **jostled**. A guide dog is trained to come to a stop just before it reaches a curb; this is the way it tells its owner to take a step up or down. But even though it learns to be **obedient**, a guide dog is also taught that sometimes it must disobey. For example, if its owner tells it to cross a street when a car is coming, it won't **budge** until it is safe to cross. While it is being trained, a guide dog is never punished for making a mistake; instead it is encouraged to do better by being rewarded when it behaves correctly.

When the training is complete, a guide dog is **assigned** to its new owner. The two of them need to be **compatible** because they will be together for a long time. The size, weight, and nature of both

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5. (a) An alert is
(b) a meeting arranged in advance. | (c) work given out to be done.
(d) An assignment is |
| 6. (a) Patience is
(b) Obedience is | (c) help and support given to another.
(d) the willingness to wait without complaining. |
| 7. (a) is big and strong.
(b) gets along with others. | (c) An alert person is one who
(d) A burly person is one who |
| 8. (a) Obedience is
(b) Retirement is | (c) a drawing away of one's attention.
(d) a time when one no longer works. |
| 9. (a) To jostle someone is
(b) to warn the person of danger. | (c) To distract someone is
(d) to bump up against that person. |
| 10. (a) go to bed.
(b) To budge is to | (c) To retire is to
(d) do as one is told. |

1B 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 1.

1. They expected their children to be **willing to do as they were told**.
2. My grandparents plan to travel to other countries when they **give up working at their jobs**.
3. They refused to **make the slightest move** even though we pleaded with them to step aside.
4. If you and your roommate are not **able to get along**, you should split up.
5. Elido sounded the **signal that warned of danger** when he saw smoke.
6. We made our way around the **objects that were blocking our way** and continued on our journey.
7. A buzzing mosquito can be a **thing that draws your attention away** when you are trying to read.

6

are taken into account. A **burly** person might be more comfortable with a large dog while a person who spends most of the day inside probably will not want to be matched with a frisky dog that needs plenty of exercise. From the beginning, a strong bond needs to form between the dog and the owner.

The Seeing Eye headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey, was the first, and is still the largest, school for guide dogs in the United States. Every year several hundred blind people spend a month there learning how to work with the dogs they have been matched with. Usually a guide dog stays with its owner for about ten years before it **retires**. Then, it often may go to live with friends of the owner and stay with them as an ordinary family pet for the rest of its life.

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 was the **concept** behind the Seeing Eye dog movement?

2. When does the relationship between guide dog and owner officially begin?

3. What sort of dog might a **burly** person be matched up with?

4. Why do you think a powerful dog would not be matched with someone who is not very strong?

5. Where are you most likely to see **pedestrians**?

6. **Obedience** is important in dogs kept as pets. Why is this not always true of guide dogs?

7. Why is pushing and poking a guide dog necessary during its training?

8. What is the meaning of **alert** as it is used in the passage?

9. How will a guide dog respond if it is ordered to cross a street with heavy traffic?

10. Why are guide dogs unlikely to get excited when another dog approaches?

11. What is the meaning of **patient** as it is used in the passage?

12. Name three **obstacles** that a guide dog might have to deal with on the street.

13. Why do guide dogs need to keep a watchful eye on other people in crowded places?

14. What is the meaning of **retires** as it is used in the passage?

15. Why would it be somewhat surprising to see a guide dog without its owner?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Alert comes from the Italian *all'erta*, which meant "acting as a lookout on a watchtower." The person in the watchtower had to be *alert* (*adjective*, meaning "watchful"); the person would *alert* the others in the event of danger (*verb*, meaning "to warn") by sounding the *alert* (*noun*, meaning "warning signal"). To be *on the alert* means "to be watchful and ready."

If you live with or travel with a **companion**, you will probably eat your meals together. This was the case with the Romans, too. The word comes from

the Latin prefix *com-*, which means "with," and the word *panis*, which is Latin for "bread." To the Romans, a *companion* was a person with whom one shared a meal, of which bread was one of the main items.

A **pedestrian** is a person who gets around on foot. A *pedal* is a lever operated by the foot. A *quadruped* is a creature with four feet, while a *centipede* supposedly has 100 feet (it actually has about seventy). All of these words come from the Latin *ped-*, whose meaning you can probably guess.