

Lesson 20

Word List

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

ample

am' pəl

adj. 1. Plenty; more than enough.

One large turkey will provide **ample** food for eight people.

2. Large in size.

A heavy gold watch chain hung across his **ample** stomach.

burden

bərd' n

n. 1. Something that is carried, especially a heavy load.

Carrying his frail son on his shoulder was never a **burden**, Bob Cratchit explained.

2. Anything that is hard to bear.

The **burden** of caring for four sick children was too much for the babysitter.

v. To add to what one has to bear.

Don't **burden** your grandparents with this problem.

compassion

kəm pash' ən

n. A feeling of sharing the suffering of others and of wanting to help; sympathy; pity.

Shazia's **compassion** for the homeless led to her working each weekend at the soup kitchen.

compassionate *adj.* The state of showing compassion.

The doctor's **compassionate** manner made her loved by all of her patients.

comply

kəm pli'

v. To act in agreement with a rule or another's wishes.

Unless you **comply** with the requirement to wear shoes, you cannot enter the restaurant.

cumbersome

kum' bər səm

adj. Awkward and hard to handle; unwieldy.

The crate of oranges was **cumbersome**, but the clerk managed to get it up the stairs.

distress

di stres'

v. To cause pain or sorrow; to trouble or worry.

It **distresses** me that no one offered to help when they saw the accident.

n. Pain, sorrow, or worry.

The **distress** of a divorce is felt especially hard by the children involved.

encounter

en koun' tər

v. 1. To meet unexpectedly.

The actress **encountered** a crowd of fans in the lobby of her hotel.

2. To be faced with.

As the frightened children ran around the corner, they **encountered** a stone wall.

n. 1. A chance meeting.

Our **encounter** with our neighbors at the party was a pleasant surprise.

2. A battle or fight.

The first major **encounter** of the Civil War occurred at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

exert

eg zərt'

v. To put forth effort.

If Jane doesn't **exert** herself more in Spanish class, I'm sure she will not be able to speak the language.

exertion *n.* The act of tiring oneself; a strong effort.

The **exertion** of climbing to the top of the ruins left the explorers feeling weak.

indignant

in dig' nənt

adj. Angry or resentful about something that seems wrong or unfair.

Bonnie was **indignant** when Miss Slighcarp, her governess, appeared in the most elegant dress Bonnie's mother owned.

indignation *n.* Anger that is caused by something mean or unfair.

My **indignation** was aroused when I was not given a chance to defend myself.

jest
jest

n. A joke or the act of joking.
My remark was made in **jest**; I'm sorry you took me seriously.
v. To joke or say things lightheartedly.
"Surely you **jest**," I said when my aunt suggested throwing out the television set.

mirth
mɜrth

n. Laughter; joyfulness expressed through laughter.
The sight of the three-year-old wearing her mother's hat and shoes provoked much **mirth** among the family.

moral
môr' əl

n. A useful lesson about life.
The play's **moral** was "Look before you leap."
adj. 1. Having to do with questions of right and wrong.
The death sentence for murder is a **moral** as well as a legal issue.
2. Based on what is right and proper.
You have a **moral** duty to report a crime if you see it.

outskirts
out' skɜrts

n. The parts far from the center, as of a town.
The plan to build another large shopping mall on the **outskirts** of town was voted down at the meeting.

resume
re zōōm'

v. 1. To begin again after a pause.
The concert will **resume** after a fifteen-minute break.
2. To occupy again.
After the station stop, the detective **resumed** his seat for the next part of the journey.

ridicule
rid' i kyōōl

v. To make fun of; to mock.
People once **ridiculed** the idea that flight by heavier-than-air machines was possible.
n. Words or actions intended to make fun of or mock.
Their **ridicule** of my friend finally provoked me to lose my temper.
ridiculous *adj.* Laughable; deserving of mockery.
It is **ridiculous** to suggest that a bridge could be built across the Atlantic Ocean.

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20A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 20. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) is crudely made.
(b) is awkward to handle.

- (c) A ridiculous object is one that
(d) A cumbersome object is one that

2. (a) Mirth is
(b) Distress is

- (c) a calm and untroubled state.
(d) joy expressed by laughter.

3. (a) An indignant reply
(b) A compassionate reply
(c) is one that expresses pity.
(d) reveals a deep hatred of others.
4. (a) To encounter someone is to
(b) make that person suffer.
(c) To distress someone is to
(d) feel sorry for that person.
5. (a) Outskirts are
(b) Morals are
(c) useful lessons about life.
(d) customs that are no longer practiced.
6. (a) anger caused by unfairness.
(b) Indignation is
(c) Exertion is
(d) wrongful behavior.
7. (a) Jests are
(b) Outskirts are
(c) parts far from the center.
(d) things that are hard to bear.
8. (a) a slow, heavy walk.
(b) An encounter is
(c) A burden is
(d) a chance meeting.
9. (a) continue it after a pause.
(b) To ridicule a speech is to
(c) To resume a speech is to
(d) bring it to a sudden end.
10. (a) A jest is
(b) A burden is
(c) something that is hard to bear.
(d) a lesson that teaches right and wrong.

ZOB 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 20.

1. Caring for Father after he broke his leg **put a load that was hard to bear on me**.
2. The runners were asked to **go back to** their places after the false start.
3. We were **filled with anger over the unfairness of it** when the library had to cut back its hours.

4. I kept my diary secret to avoid my little brother's **making fun of me**.
5. You must have known that I spoke in **a way that was not intended to be taken seriously**.
6. I have **more than enough** spending money for my vacation.
7. In an emergency, if you are ordered to leave the building, you must **do as you are told**.
8. We were panting after our **efforts that left us tired out**.
9. The **lesson that is the main point** of the story is that "haste makes waste."
10. Following their **meeting in battle**, each side proclaimed victory.

20C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. A question may have more than one correct answer.

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1. Which of the following would be **cumbersome**?

(a) a tennis racket	(c) a broken bicycle
(b) a heavy suitcase	(d) a photo album
2. Which of the following might be a **burden**?

(a) a load of firewood	(c) a pardon
(b) a sack of potatoes	(d) a debt
3. Which of the following can one **resume**?

(a) a conversation	(c) a journey
(b) one's seat	(d) a destination
4. Which of the following might cause one to feel **compassion**?

(a) a strange noise	(c) a disaster
(b) a homeless person	(d) starving people
5. Which of the following might cause **mirth**?

(a) a bee sting	(c) a tickling in the ribs
(b) a hilarious story	(d) a plane's sudden loss of power

6. Which of the following might a person **encounter**?

- (a) difficulties (c) a serious problem
(b) a school friend (d) hostility

7. For which of the following must one **exert** oneself?

- (a) watching TV (c) climbing stairs
(b) falling asleep (d) running a marathon

8. Which of the following is the **moral** thing to do?

- (a) to cheat on a test (c) to choose vanilla over strawberry
(b) to admit that one lied (d) to return a lost wallet to its owner

ZOD Word Study

Look at each group of four words below. If you think two of the words in a group are synonyms, circle those words and write *S* in the space next to the words. If you think two of the words in a group are antonyms, circle those words and write *A* in the space next to the words.

1. dense	primitive	crude	absurd	_____
2. require	dominate	retain	keep	_____
3. animated	sluggish	formal	brittle	_____
4. fascinate	topple	prohibit	overthrow	_____
5. pity	prelude	aroma	compassion	_____
6. mirth	laughter	option	pasture	_____
7. bland	flimsy	sparse	meager	_____
8. visible	drab	elegant	dormant	_____
9. bungle	jest	joke	budge	_____
10. careless	fearful	delicate	painstaking	_____
11. somber	jubilant	accurate	available	_____
12. die	hoist	perish	denounce	_____
13. decline	huddle	accept	celebrate	_____
14. lure	moral	meeting	encounter	_____
15. frivolous	barren	fertile	feeble	_____

ZOE Passage

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

A Tale of Two Donkeys

Aesop was a slave who lived in ancient Greece. Although little is known about his life, readers have enjoyed the fables he told for more than twenty-five centuries. Not only are his stories entertaining, but they also teach us something about human behavior, for a fable is a story with a lesson. The characters in them can be animals who talk and behave like humans, or they can be ordinary people, like those in the story that follows.

A farmer and his daughter were on their way to market to sell a donkey, the farmer riding on the animal's back while the daughter plodded along at his side. After they had gone about a mile, they happened to **encounter** a woman drawing water from a well. She was very **indignant** at the sight of the farmer riding in ease while his daughter had to walk. She told the farmer that he should be ashamed of himself. So, to please her, the father and daughter changed places. When the young woman was sitting comfortably on the donkey, they **resumed** their journey.

Just as they reached the **outskirts** of the town, they met a young man who asked the farmer why he was walking when there was **ample** room for both of them on the donkey. To please the young man, the father climbed onto the donkey behind his daughter and they continued on their way.

A little later they passed by two women standing by the side of the road. When they saw the donkey carrying two grown people, the women were filled with **compassion** for the animal. "Have you any idea of the **distress** you are causing that poor donkey?" the older woman called out to the farmer. "The poor creature is half dead from having to carry such a **burden**." The younger woman loudly remarked that the farmer and his daughter should be carrying the donkey instead of the donkey carrying them. She spoke in **jest**, but the farmer took her seriously and at once set about to **comply** with her suggestion.

First, he tied the donkey's legs to a pole. This took some time, as the donkey had no desire to have its legs tied, but at last the task was accomplished. Such a **cumbersome** load was difficult for the farmer and his daughter to lift. But finally, they managed to hoist the pole onto their shoulders. With the donkey slung upside down between them and struggling to escape, they staggered down the road.

At last, panting from their **exertions**, they reached the market. Their arrival was greeted with considerable **mirth**, so that when the farmer tried to sell the donkey, his attempts were **ridiculed**. For, of course, no one was willing to buy a donkey that had to be carried.

Can you guess the **moral** of this fable? The Hidden Message puzzle in the review section at the end of this lesson will spell it out for you.

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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 do you think people responded when Aesop told this story?

2. How do you think the ending of the story would have changed if the farmer and his daughter had not **encountered** anyone on the way to town?

3. What reason do you think Aesop had for telling this story?

4. Why might one feel **compassion** for the farmer's daughter?

5. Why do you think the farmer never became **indignant** when people kept telling him what to do?

6. How did the farmer respond to the various suggestions that were made?

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

8. In what way did the farmer misunderstand the young woman who suggested that he and his daughter should carry the donkey?

9. What do you think probably **distressed** the donkey most?

10. Why would it be difficult for two people to carry a donkey?

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

12. How does the passage make clear that the farmer and his daughter found carrying the donkey hard work?

13. What is the meaning of **ample** as it is used in the passage?

14. Where were the farmer and his daughter when they met the young man?

15. How do you think the farmer and his daughter must have looked when they reached the market?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Greek word *pathos*, which means “suffering,” has passed unchanged into English via Latin. It means “something that moves a person to feel pity.” By combining the Latin root with the prefix *con* (also written *com-* or *col-*), which means “with” or “together,” we form the word **compassion**. Several other words are formed from this root. *Sympathy* has the same meaning as *compassion*, although the latter term suggests a greater depth of feeling. *Pathetic* means “arousing feelings of pity.” (The *pathetic* cries of the injured animal moved us to tears.)

The language spoken in France from the ninth to the early sixteenth century is called Old French. The Old French verb *encombrer* meant “to put obstacles in the way of.” **Cumbersome** and several other

English words have been formed from this Old French verb. To *encumber* someone is to put a heavy load on that person. (Hikers who are *encumbered* with heavy backpacks are glad of a chance to rest.) An *encumbrance* is anything that is awkward, difficult, or heavy. (Heavy boots are an *encumbrance* when running to catch a school bus.)

Resume is a noun meaning “a brief outline or summary, especially of a person’s education and work experience.” It is sometimes written with a stroke, or accent, over each e [*résumé*]. This is done because it is the French spelling, and *resume* is a French word brought into English. With this meaning, the word is pronounced the French way, *REZ-oo-may*.