

Lesson 6

Word List

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

abolish
ə bäl' ish

v. To bring to an end; to do away with.
Most people would support a plan to **abolish** weapons of mass destruction.

agony
ag' ə nē

n. Great pain of mind or body; suffering.
The pinched nerve caused him **agony** for several weeks.
agonizing *adj.* (ag' ə nīz iŋ) Very painful.
Watching their sick child in the hospital bed was **agonizing** to the parents.

catapult
kat' ə pult

n. A machine used in ancient wars that threw objects with great force.
Roman **catapults** could throw six-pound objects almost a third of a mile.
v. To move or be moved suddenly and with great force, as if by a catapult.
The Groaners' latest song **catapulted** them to the top of the country music charts.

character
kər' ək tər

n. 1. The qualities that make a person or place different or special.
Your friend's support during your long illness demonstrates her true **character**.
2. A person in a story, movie, or play.
Madame Defarge and Sydney Carton are the two **characters** I remember most clearly from *A Tale of Two Cities*.
3. A letter or symbol used in writing or printing.
The license plate number NKT605 contains six **characters**.

denounce
dē nouns'

v. 1. To speak out against something; to criticize.
The president **denounced** Congress for failing to approve the budget.
2. To accuse someone of doing wrong.
Carla **denounced** Victor, who sat next to her, for cheating on the test.

escalate
es' kə lāt

v. To go up or increase in size or scope.
If house prices continue to **escalate**, many people will be unable to afford to buy a home.

grim
grim

adj. 1. Cruel; fierce.
There were many **grim** battles during the Civil War.
2. Unfriendly or threatening; stern.
The coach's **grim** face expressed his displeasure at our team's poor performance.
3. Unpleasant; disturbing.
We heard the **grim** news that no one had survived the plane crash.

harbor
här' bər

n. A protected place along a seacoast where ships can find shelter.
In the summer the **harbor** is busy with sailboats going in and out.
v. 1. To give shelter to; to take care of by hiding.
In most states, it is a crime to **harbor** someone wanted by the police.
2. To hold and nourish a thought or feeling in the mind.
Try not to **harbor** anger against the person who stole your bike.

inflict

in flikt'

v. To cause something painful to be felt.
The hurricane **inflicted** severe damage on coastal areas.

loathe

lōth

v. To hate or dislike greatly.
Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian leader, **loathed** violence.
loathing *n.* A feeling of hatred.
Their **loathing** of cruelty to animals led them to set up a shelter for unwanted pets.

meddle

med' əl

v. To involve oneself in other people's affairs without being asked.
When my grandparents retired, they could have **meddled** in my parents' lives, but they didn't.
meddlesome *adj.* Given to taking part in others' affairs without being asked.
If you think I am being **meddlesome**, just tell me to mind my own business.

monstrous

mān' strəs

adj. 1. Causing shock; horrible; wicked.
Hitler's **monstrous** plan to murder the Jews of Europe was carried out in concentration camps in Germany and Poland.
2. Extremely large.
A **monstrous** statue of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, three times life-size, stood in the town square.

rouse

rouz

v. 1. To awaken, to wake up.
The children were sleeping so soundly that it was difficult to **rouse** them.
2. To stir up; to excite.
Martin Luther King, Jr., **roused** the American people with his 1963 speech at the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, D.C.

steadfast

sted' fast

adj. Unchanging; steady; loyal.
Rigo and Moni remained **steadfast** friends throughout their school years.

translate

trans lāt'

v. To put into a different language.
The Little Prince, which was written in French, was **translated** into English by Katherine Woods.

6A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 6. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) involve oneself in the affairs of others. (c) To translate is to
(b) hold certain thoughts in the mind. (d) To meddle is to

2. (a) A harbor is something that (c) hurls objects with great force.
(b) is expressed in another language. (d) A catapult is something that

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|---|---|
| 3. (a) feels resentment against others.
(b) is not easily changed by others. | (c) A monstrous person is one who
(d) A steadfast person is one who |
| 4. (a) To loathe something is to
(b) To translate something is to | (c) express it in a different language.
(d) present it for the first time. |
| 5. (a) one that is very wicked.
(b) An agonizing decision is | (c) one that keeps getting put off.
(d) A monstrous decision is |
| 6. (a) a protected place for boats.
(b) anything that shocks or horrifies. | (c) A harbor is
(d) A character is |
| 7. (a) To rouse someone is to
(b) say that person's name out loud. | (c) wake up that person.
(d) To denounce someone is to |
| 8. (a) a person's special qualities.
(b) Character is | (c) deliberate rudeness.
(d) Agony is |
| 9. (a) find its causes.
(b) To denounce a quarrel is to | (c) say that it is wrong.
(d) To escalate a quarrel is to |
| 10. (a) To loathe something is to
(b) have an understanding of it. | (c) To abolish something is to
(d) feel hatred for it. |

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6B 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 6.

- Overnight, someone had put up a **gigantic and very unattractive** billboard across the street.
- Americans in 1776 were **stirred into action** by Thomas Paine's writings.
- I was in **very great pain** after I fell and twisted my ankle.

4. The school **did away with** the rules that prevented girls from playing on the baseball team.
5. Ida still **holds on to** feelings of mistrust toward Fern, who made promises she knew she could not keep.
6. The **people written about** in Judy Blume's books seem like real people to me.
7. The burned-out buildings were a **disturbing and unpleasant** sign that the city had been under attack.
8. The quarrel between us **became more and more serious**, until we no longer spoke to each other.
9. The Beatles were **suddenly lifted** to world fame in the early 1960s.
10. The 1994 earthquake **was the cause of** heavy damage throughout much of Los Angeles.

6C 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 **denounced**?
(a) a plane's arrival (c) an act of cruelty
(b) a scoundrel (d) a bad law
2. Which of the following can be **harbored**?
(a) anger (c) a runaway child
(b) a car (d) hatred
3. Which of the following can be **abolished**?
(a) a rule (c) a law
(b) an idea (d) a custom
4. Which of the following might **meddlesome** persons do?
(a) keep to themselves (c) ask a lot of questions
(b) offer advice freely (d) mind their own business
5. Which of the following can be **translated**?
(a) paintings (c) books
(b) music (d) laughter

6. Which of the following is a **character**?

- (a) Snow White (c) 9
(b) & (d) optimism

7. Which of the following can be **grim**?

- (a) news (c) weather
(b) jubilation (d) vegetables

8. Which of the following could be **agonizing**?

- (a) a bad toothache (c) a persistent cold
(b) the death of a friend (d) a distraction

6D Word Study

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

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| 1. conquer | _____ | remove |
| 2. sever | _____ | hatred |
| 3. obscure | _____ | correct |
| 4. extract | _____ | stern |
| 5. accurate | _____ | short |
| 6. steadfast | _____ | defeat |
| 7. loathing | _____ | weak |
| 8. grim | _____ | cut |
| 9. terse | _____ | loyal |
| 10. puny | _____ | unclear |

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6E Passage

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

The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword

In the early nineteenth century, a number of Americans supported slavery, a practice that had been widely accepted since ancient times. Even people who **loathed** slavery, and there were a great many, thought that there was little that one person could do about it. They were wrong. Harriet Beecher Stowe, who was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1811, was someone who caused important changes. She believed that slavery was a **monstrous** crime. While living in Ohio in the 1840s, she used her house to **harbor** slaves who had escaped from their southern owners and were making their way north to freedom. In 1850, after moving to Maine with her minister husband, she wrote a novel called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which not only awakened people to the horrors of slavery but also **catapulted** her to world fame.

Her book painted a **grim** picture of slave life. Readers shared the **agony** that the slave mother Eliza felt when she accidentally overheard that her only child was to be sold to a slave trader. They eagerly followed Eliza's adventures after she escaped with her child, crossing the half-frozen Ohio River by jumping from one broken piece of ice to the next, with armed men and yelping dogs close behind. They breathed a sigh of relief when Eliza and her child reached Canada and freedom.

Another **character** in the book is the wise and kindly slave, Uncle Tom. He was sold to Simon Legree, a man who took pleasure in **inflicting** severe punishment on his slaves. When Legree ordered Uncle Tom to give a whipping to a sick and weak female slave who had failed to pick enough cotton, Tom refused. So Legree had him whipped instead. Later, when Uncle Tom **steadfastly** refused to tell Legree where two of his runaway slaves were hiding, Legree had him beaten so severely that he died. Readers wept.

Uncle Tom's Cabin sold millions of copies and was **translated** into many different languages. It was also made into a play that was performed all over the world. The book helped **rouse** the people of America, especially those in the North, into demanding an end to slavery. Of course, not everyone looked with favor on *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It was banned in the South, and slave owners and their supporters accused Harriet Beecher Stowe of **meddling** in their lives. She ignored their protests and continued to **denounce** slavery in speeches, articles, and books.

The quarrel between North and South over the question of slavery **escalated**. In 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed an order **abolishing** slavery in states then under Confederate control. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel played no small part in bringing about the war that ended slavery. Her life shows that just one determined person can make a difference.

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 differing views did Americans have of slavery?

2. What happened to the quarrel between North and South over slavery?

3. What event occurred thirteen years after *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was written?

4. Why did Harriet Beecher Stowe suddenly become famous?

5. Which act described in the passage do you think is the most **monstrous**?

6. Why were some people who didn't know English able to read *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

7. Why is it inaccurate to describe Harriet Beecher Stowe as **meddlesome**?

8. How did Harriet Beecher Stowe stand up to the supporters of slavery?

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

10. Why do you think Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

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

12. How would you say Eliza's **agony** differed from Uncle Tom's?

13. What is it about Simon Legree that makes him so unpleasant?

14. How did Uncle Tom answer when Simon Legree demanded to know where the runaway slaves were hiding?

15. What is the meaning of **grim** as it is used in the passage?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Two nouns are formed from the verb **abolish**. *Abolition* is the act of abolishing or the state of being abolished. (It took a terrible civil war to bring about the *abolition* of slavery in America.) An *abolitionist* is a person who worked to bring about an end to slavery. (William Lloyd Garrison was a famous *abolitionist* who, for thirty-five years, fought to end slavery in America.)

Don't confuse the verb **loathe** (with a final -e) with the adjective *loath* (without the final -e) which means "unwilling." (We were having such a good time that we were *loath* to leave.) The *th* sound in *loathe* is pronounced as in *then*; the *th* sound in *loath* is pronounced as in *thin*.

The homophones **meddle** and *medal* sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. A medal is a small, flat piece of metal given as an honor or to reward bravery.

The Latin prefix *trans-* means "across" and helps to form many English words. A *transatlantic* voyage is one made across the Atlantic Ocean. A radio or television tower *transmits* signals across the land to be picked up by radio and television sets.

The Latin root *latus* means "to carry" or "to move." It combines with the prefix *trans-* to form **translate**. To translate something is to "move it across" from one language to another.