

Lesson 7

Word List

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

colony

kəl' ə nē

n. 1. A group of people, animals, or plants living close together.

We found a **colony** of ants in the yard.

2. A group of people who settle in a new land and have legal ties to the country they came from.
English people formed a **colony** at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

compensate

kəm' pən sāt

v. 1. To make up for; to be equivalent to.

My parents gave me another bike to **compensate** for the one that was stolen.

2. To pay for.

Our student council voted to **compensate** the police officer who spoke to our school about illegal drugs.

compensation *n.* Payment or whatever is given or done to make up for something.

The pedestrian received ten thousand dollars **compensation** for injuries she suffered when struck by the car.

deposit

dē pəz' it

v. 1. To lay down.

The hikers **deposited** their backpacks on the porch.

2. To put money into a bank account or to give as partial payment.

Sign your name on the back before you **deposit** the check.

n. 1. Something laid down.

The flood left a **deposit** of stones on the river banks.

2. Money put into a bank account or given as partial payment.

For a \$20 **deposit**, the store will hold the skis.

fascinate

fas' ə nāt

v. To attract; to strongly hold the interest of.

The circus clowns **fascinated** the children in the audience.

fascinating *adj.* Extremely interesting.

The museum has a **fascinating** display of Native American crafts.

feeble

fē' bəl

adj. 1. Having little strength, weak.

Lions prey on the most **feeble** zebras in the herd.

2. Not very believable or satisfying.

Henry gave the teacher a **feeble** explanation for being late to class: his watch was broken.

formal

fôr' məl

adj. 1. Following rules or customs, often in an exact and proper way.

After the summit meeting, the president gave a **formal** dinner at the White House.

2. Suitable for events where strict standards of dress and behavior are expected.

Men's **formal** dress for the evening is white tie and tails.

frigid

frij' id

adj. 1. Very cold.

The morning air was so **frigid** that Sue's car would not start.

2. Lacking a warm manner; unfriendly.

The **frigid** greeting we received made it clear that we were not welcome.

harsh
härsh

adj. 1. Rough and unpleasant to the senses.
In a **harsh** tone of voice, the farmer ordered us to stay away from the cows.
2. Causing pain; cruel.
Twelve months in jail was a **harsh** sentence for shoplifting.
3. Not suitable for living things; extremely uncomfortable.
Northern Canada's **harsh** climate keeps people from settling there.

huddle
hud' əl

v. 1. To crowd together.
When the downpour began, we all **huddled** under one umbrella.
2. To curl one's limbs up close to one's body.
During their first night at Mrs. Brisket's school, Bonnie and Sylvia **huddled** under their thin blankets to keep warm.
n. A closely packed group.
The players went into a **huddle** to plan the next play.

remote
rē mōt'

adj. 1. Far away in time or space.
The scientists' route took them through a **remote** region of the Amazon rainforest.
2. Slight or faint.
There was only a **remote** chance of reaching our destination on time.
3. Controlled indirectly or from a distance.
Our garage doors are opened by **remote** control.
4. Distant in manner.
The hotel clerk seemed very **remote** and hardly looked at us when we asked for directions.

resemble
rē zem' bəl

v. To be like or similar to.
The markings on the wings of the io moth **resemble** the eyes of a small animal and help to protect it.

rigid
rij' id

adj. 1. Stiff and unbending; not flexible.
The frozen rope was as **rigid** as a stick.
2. Strict; not easily changed.
This school has a **rigid** rule that the police will be informed of any student found with a weapon.

solitary
säl' ə ter ē

adj. 1. Being alone; lacking the company of others.
In the nineteenth century, lighthouse keepers often led **solitary** lives.
2. Being the only one.
A **solitary** elm grew in the middle of the field.

substantial
səb stan' shəl

adj. 1. Strong; solid.
The chair is not **substantial** enough to support the weight of an adult.
2. Great in value or size.
I received a **substantial** pay increase after just one year on the job.

waddle
wäd' əl

v. To walk with short steps, swaying from side to side.
The duck left the pond and **waddled** toward us.
n. An awkward, clumsy walk.
The baby smiled excitedly as he ended his **waddle** across the room.

7A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 7. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (a) that is operated from a distance.
(b) that is easy to operate. | (c) A rigid control is one
(d) A remote control is one |
| 2. (a) To waddle is to
(b) To huddle is to | (c) hold a person's interest or attention.
(d) curl one's limbs up close to one's body. |
| 3. (a) A deposit is
(b) A colony is | (c) a group of creatures living close together.
(d) a payment given to make up for a loss. |
| 4. (a) To resemble someone
(b) is to pay that person. | (c) To compensate someone
(d) is to apologize to that person. |
| 5. (a) one that goes on too long.
(b) A formal apology is | (c) one that is difficult to believe.
(d) A feeble apology is |
| 6. (a) is not changed easily.
(b) A rigid attitude is one that | (c) A frigid attitude is one that
(d) is no longer practiced. |
| 7. (a) is unpleasantly rough.
(b) A harsh reply is one that | (c) is too late to be useful.
(d) A formal reply is one that |
| 8. (a) A fascinating place is one
(b) that is in the tropics. | (c) A frigid place is one
(d) that is very interesting. |
| 9. (a) that is open to the public.
(b) A solitary building is one | (c) A substantial building is one
(d) that has no others close to it. |
| 10. (a) money given as partial payment.
(b) A deposit is | (c) a path that one follows.
(d) A waddle is |

colony
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waddle

7B 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 7.

1. From a distance crocodiles **look almost the same as** alligators.
2. Sarita's wind-up toy **swayed from side to side as it took short steps** across the floor.
3. A life that is **lived apart from other people** need not be lonely as long as one has books to read.
4. A **very cold** mass of air from Canada caused this wintry weather.
5. The cast on your broken arm will keep it **in a fixed position and prevent it from bending**.
6. The most **strongly built** of the three pigs' houses was the one made of bricks.
7. These patients recovering from operations are so **lacking in strength** that they cannot walk.
8. Meetings with the emperor are very **carefully arranged so as to follow strict rules**.
9. In the **very distant** past all of the continents were joined together.
10. After skiing all day, we **crowded close together** around the fire to get warm.

7C 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 be **compensated**?
(a) an injured person (c) a person suffering a loss
(b) a worker (d) a victim of a crime
2. Which of the following might be **formal**?
(a) a joke (c) a request
(b) a dance (d) a bow
3. Which of the following might be **substantial**?
(a) a meal (c) a sum of money
(b) the horizon (d) a purchase

4. Which of the following can be found in **colonies**?
- (a) settlers (c) ants
(b) islands (d) mountains
5. Which of the following can be **deposited**?
- (a) money in a bank (c) answers on a test
(b) eggs in a nest (d) books on a table
6. Which of the following **resembles** a horse?
- (a) a zebra (c) a mule
(b) a giraffe (d) a donkey
7. Which of the following moves with a **waddle**?
- (a) a snake (c) a duck
(b) a frog (d) an ostrich
8. Which of the following can be **harsh**?
- (a) a climate (c) a voice
(b) a punishment (d) a reward

7D Word Study

colony
compensate
deposit
fascinate
feeble
formal
frigid
harsh
huddle
remote
resemble
rigid
solitary
substantial
waddle

Write the antonym 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. harsh | _____ | joy |
| 2. agony | _____ | tropical |
| 3. feeble | _____ | love |
| 4. escalate | _____ | disloyal |
| 5. deposit | _____ | flexible |
| 6. rigid | _____ | withdraw |
| 7. fascinating | _____ | fall |
| 8. frigid | _____ | burly |
| 9. steadfast | _____ | gentle |
| 10. loathe | _____ | boring |

7E Passage

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

Birds in Tuxedos

What is a bird? A creature that flies, of course. And yet, penguins are birds, but they cannot fly. Their wings are too **feeble** to lift them off the ground. This was not always so. Scientists believe that penguins once flew just like other birds. At some time in the **remote** past, they migrated to Antarctica, the land that surrounds the South Pole. The ice sheet there is two miles thick in places, and the temperature varies between zero in summer and minus seventy degrees in winter. It is possible that penguins were the only creatures that could survive in such a **harsh** climate. Without enemies, they would have no need to use their wings, as other birds do, to escape attacks. Gradually, they would have lost the ability to fly.

Over many thousands of years, the wings of penguins became smaller and more **rigid**. To **compensate** for the loss, it seems, they became excellent swimmers. They use their wings as flippers, while their webbed feet help guide them through the water. They can dive to depths of seventy feet and often leap high out of the water for a breath of air. On land, they **waddle** awkwardly or slide along the ice on their stomachs, but under water they glide gracefully and effortlessly. Penguins spend a lot of time in the sea in a never-ending search for fish, lobsters, crabs, and shrimp, which make up a **substantial** part of their diet.

There are several different kinds of penguins. The smallest is no bigger than a duck, while the largest, called the Emperor penguin, is four feet tall and weighs up to ninety pounds. In addition to the shores of Antarctica, penguins make their homes farther north, on the coasts of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, or on the Pacific coast of South America.

Each year for several months, penguins come to land to make nests and lay their eggs. Along the shores of Antarctica, where no plants grow, the penguins gather stones for their nests. Females **deposit** the eggs, chalky white in color and usually no more than two, on the nest. Emperor penguins do not build nests. Instead, after an egg is laid, the male penguin holds it on his feet under a fold of stomach skin, which keeps the egg warm. The female Emperor penguin returns to the **frigid** waters to hunt for food for her family.

For two months, while the baby penguins develop in the eggs, the male Emperor penguins **huddle** close together in **colonies** of up to half a million birds so that they can keep warm. A **solitary** penguin would soon lose its body heat and die in the freezing cold of the long Antarctic night. When the baby penguins break out of the shells, they are unable to see and are quite helpless. For several months they have to be fed by their parents before they are ready to take to the water to find their own food.

On land penguins are unlikely to be mistaken for any other kind of bird. With black feathers covering their backs and snowy white feathers running up their fronts, they **resemble** very short men wearing **formal** dress. Their appearance, combined with the way they walk, makes them look slightly comical. Perhaps this explains in part why we humans find them such **fascinating** creatures.

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. Why are penguins a popular feature in aquariums and zoos?

2. What is the meaning of **deposit** as it is used in the passage?

3. In what way do penguins not **resemble** other kinds of birds?

4. What strikes some people as comical about a penguin's appearance?

5. Why did penguins' wings become so **feeble**?

6. How would you describe the summer temperatures of Antarctica?

7. In what way does the passage suggest that penguins were **compensated** for losing the ability to fly?

8. Where do penguins spend much of their time?

9. According to the passage, were penguins ever able to fly?

10. What is the meaning of **rigid** as it is used in the passage?

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11. What details in the passage illustrate the **harsh** climate of Antarctica?

12. Why do Emperor penguins gather in large **colonies**?

13. Describe the contrast between the way penguins move on land and in water.

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

15. What would happen to a penguin that wandered off by itself while on land?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The adjective formed from **colony** is *colonial*. (Virginia was one of the thirteen American *colonies* that declared their independence from British rule in 1776. The town of Williamsburg, Virginia, recreates life in *colonial* America.)

Note that *colony* can also refer to a group of people, especially artists and writers, who come together in a particular place. There they can meet and exchange ideas while working without distractions.

Remote and *distant* are synonyms. Both words mean “far off in distance or time.” *Remote*, however, also suggests something cut off and out of the way. Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic, and

Tokyo, Japan, are each *distant* from New York. But Tokyo is not considered a *remote* city because it is easy to get to by plane. Tristan da Cunha, however, is thought of as a *remote* island because it is difficult to get to.

Solitary is formed from the Latin *solus*, which means “alone.” Several other words are formed from the same Latin root. *Solitude* is “the quality or state of being alone.” (Henry David Thoreau was seeking *solitude* when he lived alone in the woods near Walden Pond.) *Isolated* means “cut off from the company of others.” (We felt *isolated* when the blizzard kept us inside for three days.) *Solitaire* is a card game for just one person.

ability