

Lesson 8

Word List

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

assemble

ə sem' bəl

v. 1. To bring together into a group; to gather.

At two o'clock we **assembled** at the door of the museum for a tour.

2. To put or fit together.

You need only a screwdriver to **assemble** the bookcase.

assembly n. 1. A group of people gathered for a certain purpose.

At the **assembly** this morning, the fire chief will talk to us about fire prevention.

2. The fitting together of various parts.

The **assembly** of the new gas grill took us less than an hour.

banquet

ban' kwət

n. A large meal for many people; a feast.

Six courses were served at the **banquet**, which was given in honor of the teachers who were retiring.

cargo

kār' go

n. The load carried by a plane or ship.

The **cargo** going to Chile was put into containers and loaded onto the boat.

cask

kask

n. A barrel-shaped container, especially one for holding liquids.

Beverages were imported to colonial New England in large **casks**.

celebrate

sel' ə brāt

v. To honor something in a special way.

Americans **celebrate** the signing of the Declaration of Independence every Fourth of July.

celebrated adj. Famous.

When Charles Dickens toured America, huge crowds turned out to hear the **celebrated** author.

decrease

dē krēs'

v. To become smaller or less.

After June 22, the length of the day gradually **decreases**.

n. The amount by which something becomes smaller.

An outbreak of flu caused a **decrease** in school attendance during January.

desperate

des' pər ət

adj. 1. Reckless because of feelings of despair.

The action star jumped from a five-story building in a **desperate** attempt to escape her captors.

2. So serious as to be almost hopeless.

The situation of the homeless in our big cities is becoming increasingly **desperate**.

edible

ed' ə bəl

adj. Safe or fit to be eaten.

Are you certain those mushrooms are **edible**?

n. An item of food; anything that can be eaten.

We'll serve the beverages at this end of the table and the sandwiches and other **edibles** at the other end.

frivolous

friv' ə ləs

adj. Not serious or important; silly.

Spending money on items like comic books seems **frivolous** to someone who has no money for food.

frivolity n. (fri vāl' ə tē) Silly or lighthearted play.

The giggling children had to be reminded that **frivolity** has no place at a funeral.

harvest
här' vəst

n. 1. The gathering of ripe crops for a season.
In Spain, the grape **harvest** begins in late summer.
2. The quantity of crops gathered.
Iowa's corn **harvest** is the largest in years.
v. To gather in the crops.
We usually **harvest** the first peas in April.

hew
hyū

v. 1. To chop down or cut with blows from an ax.
Let's **hew** these dead branches from the tree before they fall and cause damage.
2. To cut or shape with blows of an ax or similar tool.
The Tlingit of the Northwest **hewed** totem poles from tree trunks.

hostile
hās' təl

adj. Unfriendly; of or like an enemy.
The **hostile** audience would not permit the speaker to finish the speech.
hostility *n.* The expression of unfriendly feelings.
The governor's plan to close the neighborhood school met with so much **hostility** that it was quickly dropped.

pledge
plej

v. To make a serious promise.
A dozen local merchants have **pledged** their support for the new arts program.
n. A serious promise.
Before I was hired, I had to sign a **pledge** that I would not give away company secrets.

prosper
prās' pər

v. To succeed, especially in terms of money.
Alaska **prospered** when oil was found there.
prosperous *adj.* Enjoying growth and success.
The **prosperous** 1920s ended with the stock market crash of 1929.

task
task

n. A piece of work that needs to be done.
Cutting our way through the underbrush was a difficult **task**.

8A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 8. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) unsure of oneself. (c) To be desperate is to be
(b) reckless because of despair. (d) To be prosperous is to be

2. (a) To decrease aid is to (c) abolish it.
(b) To pledge aid is to (d) promise it.

3. (a) willingness to make enemies. (c) Prosperity is
(b) lighthearted play. (d) Frivolity is

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. (a) To hew something is to
(b) shape it with an ax. | (c) put it together.
(d) To harvest something is to |
| 5. (a) A celebrated person
(b) is someone who is careless. | (c) is someone who is unfriendly.
(d) A hostile person |
| 6. (a) A banquet is
(b) A task is | (c) a piece of work to be done.
(d) payment for work done. |
| 7. (a) A celebrated object
(b) An edible object | (c) is one that is easily broken.
(d) is one that is famous. |
| 8. (a) is to put it together.
(b) To harvest something | (c) is to shape it by cutting.
(d) To assemble something |
| 9. (a) A cargo is
(b) A cask is | (c) the front of a ship.
(d) a barrel used for holding liquids. |
| 10. (a) Banquets are
(b) seats put around a table. | (c) things that can be eaten.
(d) Edibles are |

assemble
banquet
cargo
cask
celebrate
decrease
desperate
edible
frivolous
harvest
hew
hostile
pledge
prosper
task

8B 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 8.

1. My cousin thinks television game shows are **silly and lighthearted** and fun to watch.
2. Our fruit stand is **enjoying a great deal of success** this year compared with previous years.
3. My piano teacher says that formal dress is required for the **large dinner at which many people will be served**.
4. Teachers and students **gathered together in a group** outside the building when the alarm sounded.

5. The dock workers will unload the **goods carried by the ship** after the passengers go ashore.
6. In August and September all of us worked many hours to help with the **gathering in of the crops**.
7. A count of tourists coming to South Carolina beaches showed a **drop in their number** for the third year in a row.
8. The bright red berries of the yew tree are not **safe to eat**.
9. The situation of those who survived the earthquake was **so serious as to be almost hopeless**.
10. The **unfriendly feelings expressed** at the meeting made me decide to leave early.

8C 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 found in a **cask**?
(a) pedestrians (c) water
(b) crevices (d) potatoes
2. Which of the following might be found at a **banquet**?
(a) blizzards (c) guests
(b) pedestrians (d) beverages
3. Which of the following is a **task**?
(a) cleaning one's room (c) weeding a garden
(b) falling asleep (d) attending college
4. Which of the following can be **assembled**?
(a) the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle (c) a bookcase
(b) the parts of a machine (d) a branch of a tree
5. Which of the following can be **hewed**?
(a) logs (c) twigs
(b) trees (d) paintings

6. Which of the following can be **harvested**?
- (a) apples (c) mushrooms
(b) aromas (d) gales
7. Which of the following do people **celebrate**?
- (a) birthdays (c) victories
(b) weddings (d) retirement
8. Which of the following might be part of a **cargo**?
- (a) grain (c) oil
(b) automobiles (d) nostalgia

8D Word Study

Here are ten Latin words that provide the roots for some English words.

<i>frigus</i>	cold	<i>aequus</i>	equal
<i>vivere</i>	to live	<i>fligere</i>	to strike
<i>solus</i>	alone	<i>hostis</i>	enemy
<i>proximus</i>	nearest	<i>portare</i>	to carry
<i>fascinare</i>	to cast a spell on	<i>desperare</i>	to give up hope

Fill in the blank spaces in each of the sentences below.

1. A **desperate** person is one who feels trapped in a hopeless situation. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
2. To be **solitary** is to be alone. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
3. A **hostile** act is one that is unfriendly. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
4. If two amounts are **equivalent**, they are equal to each other. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
5. An **approximate** number is one that is fairly accurate without being exact. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
6. A **frigid** climate is one that is very cold. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

assemble
banquet
cargo
cask
celebrate
decrease
desperate
edible
frivolous
harvest
hew
hostile
pledge
prosper
task

7. To **revive** something is to bring it back to life. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
8. To **export** goods is to have them carried to other countries. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
9. To be absolutely **fascinated** by something is to be spellbound by it. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
10. To **inflict** harm on someone is to hurt that person. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

8E Passage

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

The First Thanksgiving

The hundred or so Pilgrims and other passengers who left England in 1620 aboard the *Mayflower* arrived at Plymouth, in what is now Massachusetts. Before going ashore, the forty-one male passengers **assembled** in the ship's main cabin where they wrote the Mayflower Compact. Under this agreement, everyone, Pilgrims and non-Pilgrims alike, would be governed by the same laws. All those present **pledged** to observe the Compact.

Because the Pilgrims came ashore at the end of December, they had to work fast to prepare for winter. Their first **task** was to build shelter to keep themselves safe from animals and bad weather. Soon the sound of axes rang out as trees were chopped down and **hewed** into logs. Next, the *Mayflower's* **cargo** had to be unloaded. There were root vegetables and lemons in crates, sacks of sugar and flour, and cider in **casks**, slabs of salt pork and beef, and seeds for planting in the spring. There were small items of furniture, chests packed with blankets, linens, and clothes. There were family Bibles, tools of all kinds, but no musical instruments—the Pilgrims considered music and dancing to be **frivolous**.

That first winter was a grim one. Food was scarce, and many people became sick and died. By the time the *Mayflower* sailed back to England in the early spring, the number of people remaining had **decreased** to fewer than sixty, and many of these were too feeble to work. Those who had survived the winter were also worried about the Native Americans, who they feared would be **hostile** toward them as new settlers.

One spring day they were very surprised when a Native American walked into their settlement and greeted them in English. His name was Samoset, and he explained that he had learned English from sea captains who had earlier explored the Atlantic coast. He told them of another man, Squanto, who also spoke English. A week or so later he returned with Squanto and sixty Wampanoags, who lived nearby. The colonists were glad that their visitors were friendly for, with their food almost gone, their situation was **desperate**.

Because of the help of these native people, the colonists quickly learned which berries and other fruits were **edible**, where to catch fish, and the best way to grow corn, beans, and squash. When they needed to talk with other native people, Squanto often acted as their translator.

Later in 1621, after the first **harvest**, the colonists held a **banquet** and invited Massasoit, the leader of the Wampanoags, to bring his people to **celebrate** with them. This was the first Thanksgiving; it lasted three days. The worst was now over for the colonists. When the *Mayflower* returned in 1622, it brought more people to join the colony as well as precious supplies. More ships arrived in the following years, and the Plymouth colony grew in size and began to **prosper**. Its future was no longer in doubt.

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 do Americans today do to remember the large dinner that took place at Plymouth in 1621?

2. If the Pilgrims were alive today, what do you suppose they might think of rock concerts?

3. What did the *Mayflower* carry besides the passengers and crew?

4. What **task** did the forty-one male passengers complete before going ashore?

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

6. What valuable information did the Native Americans give the colonists?

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

8. Why was it likely that the colonists would obey the rules set out in the Mayflower Compact?

9. What beverage might have been served at the **banquet**?

ader
isted
ght
and

10. What would happen to the contents of a **cask** if it got a hole in it?

ulary
ers

11. What might the colonists have **harvested** in 1621?

mouth

12. In what way did the Native Americans surprise the colonists?

13. How many colonists survived the first winter?

?
14. Why might the survivors of the first winter have felt **desperate**?

15. How do you think life in the colony changed as it **prospered**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The antonym of **edible** is *inedible*. (The food was so overcooked that it was *inedible*.) Another antonym is *poisonous*. (Cultivated mushrooms are *edible*, but some wild mushrooms are *poisonous*.)

Don't confuse **hew** with *hue*, which is a color or shade of color. (Aqua is a blue color with a greenish *hue*.) These two words are homophones; they are

pronounced the same, but have different meanings and spellings.

Pledge and *promise* are synonyms, but a pledge is a serious promise, made concerning something important. You might *promise* to meet a friend after school; you *pledge* allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the republic for which it stands.