

Lesson 11

Word List

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

abbreviate
ə brē' vē āt

v. To shorten by leaving out certain parts.

Main Street can be **abbreviated** to Main St.

abbreviation n. (ə brē' vē ā' shən) The result of abbreviating.
Mr. Smith is the accepted **abbreviation** for Mister Smith.

appropriate
ə prō' prē āt

adj. Suitable or right for the purpose.

Tennis shoes are not **appropriate** footwear for hiking.

v. (ə prō' prē āt) To set aside for a particular purpose.
Congress **appropriates** money for various programs.

exclude
eks klōd'

v. To leave out; to keep from being a part of.

The major leagues **excluded** African American baseball players until 1947.

fanciful
fan' si fəl

adj. 1. Not based on reason; unrealistic.

One inventor came up with a **fanciful** scheme to turn water into gasoline.

2. Not real; imaginary.

For Halloween the children dressed up as ghosts, goblins, and other **fanciful** creatures.

futile
fyōōt' l

adj. Certain to fail; hopeless or useless.

Before giving up, we made several **futile** attempts to retrieve the car keys that had fallen into the lake.

grudge
gruj

n. A feeling of resentment.

The boycott was organized by people with a **grudge** against the company.

v. To be unwilling to give.

Do you **grudge** me this food when you see how ravenous I am?

grudging adj. Done or said with reluctance.

Everyone knew that such a **grudging** apology could not be sincere.

inspire
in spīr'

v. To fill with emotion or great excitement.

Einstein's discoveries **inspired** me to become a scientist.

inspiration n. (in spər ā' shən) The power to affect the mind or the emotions; anything that has this effect.

The sight of leaves falling was the **inspiration** for this poem.

majority
mə jōr' ə tē

n. 1. The greater number or part; more than half.

The **majority** of teachers at this school live in town.

2. The amount by which one number of votes is greater than another.

The vote was 97 to 91, a **majority** of six.

persevere
pə sə 'vɪr'

v. To refuse to give up despite difficulties.

The captives **persevered** in their efforts to escape.

perseverance n. Continued efforts in spite of difficulties.

With **perseverance**, spendthrifts can overcome extravagance and stick to a budget.

possess
pə 'zɛs'

v. 1. To have or to own.

The children **possess** three pairs of shoes.

2. To get power or control over.

Fear **possessed** them as the car went out of control.

possession n. (pə 'zɛʃ ə n) 1. The fact of owning or holding.

The will is in the lawyer's **possession**.

2. The thing that is held or owned.

The immigrants arrived with all their **possessions** in a few suitcases.

prejudice
prej' ə dɪs

n. An opinion or strong feeling formed without careful thought or regard to the facts.

The critic's **prejudice** against modern painting showed clearly in the review.

v. To cause to have such a feeling.

A worker's casual attire should not **prejudice** a supervisor against him or her.

prejudiced adj. Having such a feeling.

One cannot expect a fair verdict from a **prejudiced** judge.

resolute
rez' ə lɒt

adj. Determined not to give in; unyielding.

The shelter was **resolute** about finding good homes for the kittens.

sneer
snɪr

v. To look down on with scorn; to mock or insult by words or manner.

The entire audience heard someone **sneer** loudly that the acting was mediocre.

n. A scornful look; a mocking or insulting remark.

I didn't let my companion's **sneers** diminish my enjoyment of the local artists' exhibition.

unanimous
yʊn ə nɪm' ə məs

adj. Without any disagreement.

The motion passed by a **unanimous** vote of 57 to 0.

unanimity n. (yʊn ə nɪm' ə tɪ) The condition of being unanimous.

The committee voted 12 to 0 in a rare display of **unanimity**.

unruly
un rʊl' i

adj. 1. Badly behaved.

An **unruly** child in a restaurant can be very annoying to the other diners.

2. Hard to control.

This hair spray might help keep your **unruly** hair in place.

11A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 11. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) be without it.

(b) To appropriate money is to

(c) To possess money is to

(d) set it aside for a purpose.

2. (a) An inspiration is
(b) a mocking or insulting remark.
- (c) A sneer is
(d) an opinion held without regard to the facts.

3. (a) more than half.
(b) A majority is
- (c) A prejudice is
(d) a number that is too large to be counted.

4. (a) who is easily upset.
(b) who is hard to control.
- (c) An unruly person is one
(d) A resolute person is one

5. (a) Perseverance is
(b) the expectation that things
will improve.
- (c) Inspiration is
(d) the power to affect one's emotions.

6. (a) An abbreviation is
(b) A possession is
- (c) a thought that is shared.
(d) a thing that is owned.

7. (a) A grudge is
(b) Unanimity is
- (c) a feeling of resentment.
(d) a feeling of helplessness.

8. (a) An abbreviation is
(b) Perseverance is
- (c) a shortened form of a word.
(d) an incorrectly pronounced word.

9. (a) a lack of caring.
(b) Unanimity is
- (c) complete agreement.
(d) Futility is

11B 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 11.

1. Greed got **power over** them and led to their downfall.
2. I soon discovered that asking to borrow my parents' car was a **waste of my time**.
3. How do you **write the shortened form of the word adjective**?

4. The idea that the stork brings a new baby is one that does not seem very reasonable.
5. The decision was made with everyone in agreement.
6. Thoughtful people do not let opinions formed without regard for the facts affect their judgment.
7. I believe they parted unwillingly with the dollar they gave to the Red Cross.
8. The club is for teenagers only, and adults are not allowed to be members of it.
9. Only by a firm refusal to give up can you hope to succeed.
10. Do not direct your scornful remarks at things you don't understand.
11. Teenagers like to wear jeans, but they aren't always suitable for the occasion.
12. I think you're making a mistake, but I see you are quite determined not to change your mind about going.
13. The thrill of going aloft for the first time had a great effect on me and caused me to want to be a pilot.

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11C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. Each question has from one to four correct answers.

1. Which of the following can be possessed?

(a) a pair of shoes	(c) a rainbow
(b) a knack	(d) courage
2. Which of the following would be futile?

(a) proving that $1+1=3$	(c) counting to a million
(b) appealing a verdict	(d) boycotting a business
3. Which of the following is a majority?

(a) one-half	(c) one-third
(b) three-quarters	(d) all but one

4. Which of the following groups **exclude** even numbers?

(a) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.	(c) 1, 3, 7, 9.
(b) 1, 3, 3, 5, 7, 9.	(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

5. Which of the following statements show **prejudice**?

(a) "New Yorkers are rude."	(c) "Women are poor drivers."
(b) "People on welfare are lazy."	(d) "All politicians are crooks."

6. Which of the following are **appropriate** at a funeral?

(a) antics	(c) flowers
(b) weeping	(d) brawling

7. Which of the following might cause a person to **persevere**?

(a) laziness	(c) fear
(b) ambition	(d) greed

8. Which of the following would be **unruly** behavior?

(a) brushing a friend's hair	(c) pulling a friend's hair
(b) reading books	(d) throwing books

11D Word Study

The Greek prefix *mono-* and the Latin prefix *uni-* both mean "one." Match each definition with the correct word chosen from the list. Write each word in the space provided.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| unilateral | unicycle | monotone | monologue |
| unique | monolith | uniform | monorail |

1. Attire in which any one person looks like all the rest _____
2. A train system with just one rail _____
3. Being the only one of its kind _____
4. A cycle with just one wheel _____
5. A dramatic speech given by one person _____
6. A sound that stays on one note _____
7. Affecting only one of two or more sides _____
8. A single large stone, standing alone _____

11E Passage

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

Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D.

In the early 1800s a woman in the United States had few rights. She was not allowed to vote; that would not happen for a hundred years. She was not allowed to own property; if she married, everything she **possessed** became the property of her husband. And if she wanted to work, she soon learned that careers in medicine or law were not considered **appropriate** for women; only men were admitted to medical or law schools. Most people regarded this as a perfectly normal state of affairs. But Elizabeth Blackwell was not one of them.

Born in England in 1821, Blackwell came to America as a young girl with her parents. Later, when she expressed a desire to become a doctor, her parents and friends told her to put aside such **fanciful** ideas because it would be **futile** for her to try to get into medical school. But Blackwell was **resolute** in her determination. She studied medicine privately and began applying to medical schools. Despite one rejection after another, she **persevered**.

One of the places to which she applied was the Geneva Medical School in western New York, now part of Syracuse University. The professors there were just as **prejudiced** as those at other medical schools and were quite ready to reject her application. However, in the belief that a **majority** would be against Blackwell's admission, they decided to let the students vote. Just to be sure, they ruled that a single *no* vote would **exclude** her. To the professors' surprise, the students **unanimously** voted *yes*. Blackwell later found out that they had done it as a joke. That had no effect on the result, however, and the professors **grudgingly** accepted her as a student.

In 1847 Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in America to be admitted to medical school. Life in the classroom, however, was uncomfortable for her at first. Some students found it amusing to throw paper darts at her, touch her hair, and make offensive remarks about her in her presence. Blackwell responded to the **sneers** and bullying with a dignified silence, and the **unruly** behavior soon ended, to the relief of the more serious students. Blackwell worked hard, earned the respect of the faculty, and received high marks in all her courses. She graduated at the top of her class on January 23, 1849.

Not only had Blackwell become a Doctor of Medicine with the right to put the **abbreviation** M.D. after her name, she had also entered the history books as the first woman in the United States to do so. Her younger sister Emily followed in Elizabeth's footsteps and also became a doctor. Together they established the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. During the Civil War Blackwell trained nurses to tend the wounded. Most of all, her courage in challenging tradition **inspired** other women and opened up the medical profession to them. By the end of the century, over seven thousand women were practicing medicine in the United States.

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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. What effect did Blackwell's life and career have on other women?
2. What is the relationship of the letters N.Y.I.W.C. to the New York Infirmary for Women and Children?
3. How much property was a woman required to turn over to her husband when she married?
4. How were women **excluded** from the political process?
5. Why do you think so few women demanded changes in the way they were treated?
6. Why might Blackwell's desire to become a doctor have shocked some people?
7. What is the meaning of **fanciful** as it is used in the passage?
8. How did Blackwell feel when she encountered obstacles to becoming a doctor?
9. Why do you think Blackwell's applications to medical schools were rejected?
10. How was Blackwell's **perseverance** rewarded?

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

12. Why did the professors insist that the vote on Blackwell's admission be **unanimous**?

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

14. What form did the bullying by the male medical students take?

15. How did the professors' feelings about Blackwell as a student change over time?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Majority takes a plural form of the verb if the emphasis is on individual members. (The *majority* of my friends are planning to go to college when they graduate.) If the emphasis is on the group, *majority* takes a singular form. (The *majority* of the human race is still living in poverty.)

An associated word is *minority*, which means "the lesser number or part; less than half." (Most students take the school bus, but a *minority* walk or ride bicycles to school.)

The Latin verb *judicare* means "to judge." By combining the root from *judicare* with the Latin prefix

pre-, which means "before," we form the word **prejudice**. To *judge* the merits of a case *before* having all the facts is to show *prejudice*.

Two Latin words, *unus* (one) and *animus* (mind) combine to form the word **unanimous**. When people are *unanimous* about something, they are of *one mind*, which means that they all agree.