

Lesson 12

Word List

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

abandon

ə ban' dən

v. 1. To give up by leaving in time of danger.

The captain gave the order to **abandon** the ship when it began to sink.

2. To lose or give up completely.

The trapped miners refused to **abandon** hope of rescue.

3. To withdraw help or support from one in need.

The city had to **abandon** its plan for low-income housing because people in the neighborhoods objected.

adversary

əd' vər ser ē

n. An enemy or opponent.

France and Germany were **adversaries** in two world wars but now enjoy friendly relations.

baffle

baf' əl

v. To confuse; to prevent from understanding.

Alice was **baffled** by their inappropriate behavior and didn't know how to respond.

blunder

blun' dər

n. A stupid or careless mistake.

The campaign manager's prejudiced comment was a major **blunder** that cost him his job.

v. 1. To make such a mistake.

The chess champion **blundered** when she failed to protect her knight from her opponent's bishop.

2. To move in a clumsy or careless way.

The Sheriff of Nottingham **blundered** into the trap Robin Hood had set for him.

colossal

kə lās' əl

adj. Very big; enormous.

The **colossal** size of the Great Wall is what impressed the tourists most.

detect

dē tek't

v. To discover something not easily noticed.

The witness did not **detect** anything unusual that day.

haul

hōl

v. To pull or carry with effort.

We **haul** the boat out of the water every winter.

n. 1. The amount caught or taken at one time.

The crew was delighted with the large **haul** of fish today.

2. The distance traveled or to be traveled.

It's a long **haul** into town.

overpower

ō vər pou' ər

v. To get the better of; to defeat.

The thieves **overpowered** the guards and left them tied up in the hall.

rejoice

rē jois'

v. To be very happy.

Family members **rejoiced** when they heard that members of the Mount Everest expedition had returned safely.

scoff
skōf

v. To mock; to ridicule.
People once **scoffed** at the idea of space travel.

sentinel
sen' ti nəl

n. One who keeps watch or guards a point of entry.
Sentinels were posted to warn of the enemy's approach.

siege
sēj

n. The surrounding of a place in order to force it to surrender.
The **siege** of Leningrad by the German army lasted from 1941 to 1944.

sinister
sin' is tər

adj. Suggesting or leading to evil or harm.
The villain's **sinister** words, "I'll be back!" sent shivers down our spines.

victor
vik' tər

n. The winner in a contest or struggle.
The **victors** of the semifinal competition will meet in the finals tomorrow.
victorious adj. (vik tōr' ē əs) Successful in a contest or battle.
The **victorious** debate team was honored at a ceremony attended by the mayor.

woe
wō

n. 1. Deep distress or misery.
The slaves' **woe** was evident as they were led off to captivity.
2. Trouble; misfortune.
The country's **woes** cannot be cured overnight.
woeful adj. 1. Full of woe; unhappy.
Those fleeing the country told a **woeful** tale of persecution by its rulers.
2. Very bad; wretched.
The pilot made a **woeful** error in judgment by trying to land in dense fog.

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12A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 12. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) A long haul is (c) a great distance to be traveled.
(b) a story that seems to have no end. (d) A long siege is
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2. (a) give that person one's full support. (c) To abandon someone is to
(b) To overpower someone is to (d) reduce that person to a helpless state.
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3. (a) someone who opposes one in a struggle or contest. (c) A victor is
(b) someone who assists one in a struggle or contest. (d) An adversary is

4. (a) is very serious.
 (b) will not be repeated.
- (c) A sinister error is one that
 (d) A woeful error is one that

5. (a) be filled with happiness.
 (b) To rejoice is to
- (c) To scoff is to
 (d) move in a clumsy way.

6. (a) To abandon someone is to
 (b) withdraw one's support from
 that person.
- (c) To baffle someone is to
 (d) defeat that person in a contest.

7. (a) To scoff is
 (b) to stand guard.
- (c) To blunder is
 (d) to make a careless mistake.

8. (a) left alone by that person.
 (b) To be detected by someone is to be
- (c) puzzled or confused by that person.
 (d) To be baffled by someone is to be

9. (a) is successful in a contest.
 (b) is taken into captivity.
- (c) A victor is one who
 (d) A sentinel is one who

12B 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 12.

- The robot **made its way clumsily** across the room, knocking over the chairs in its way.
- The junior team expects to be **successful in the contest** even though no one else expects it to win.
- We **managed, with considerable effort, to move** the buffet into the dining room.
- A **person standing guard** must not fall asleep while on duty.
- People once **thought it ridiculous and laughed** at the idea of women wearing men's attire.

6. The children **gave up completely** their idea of opening a lemonade stand.
7. The Mars landings failed to **find any sign of** life on that planet.
8. The **surrounding of the town in an effort to force it to surrender** lasted eighty days.
9. The **very great** size of the national debt worried the nation's leaders.
10. My tale of **great unhappiness** had my friends almost in tears.
11. There was something **that threatened harm** in the way the stranger swiveled around to look at me.
12. The old bull moose was quickly **reduced to a helpless state** by its hardy rival.

12C Applying Meanings

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

abandon
adversary
baffle
blunder
colossal
detect
haul
overpower
rejoice
scoff
sentinel
siege
sinister
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woe

1. Which of the following can be **colossal**?

(a) a ship	(c) a statue
(b) a whale	(d) a debt

2. Which of the following might make a person **woeful**?

(a) winning some money	(c) aggravating an injury
(b) becoming bankrupt	(d) being offered sanctuary

3. Which of the following can be **abandoned**?

(a) a ship	(c) a plan
(b) hope	(d) a friend

4. Which of the following might **baffle** a person?

(a) a riddle	(c) a math problem
(b) a greeting from an old friend	(d) a clue to a crossword puzzle

5. Which of the following would a **sentinel** be expected to do?

(a) keep a constant watch	(c) stay on guard
(b) stay alert	(d) set off on an expedition

6. Which of the following might be seen as **sinister**?
- (a) an evil smile
(b) an unruly child
(c) a hooded figure
(d) a casual remark
7. Which of the following could be the object of a **siege**?
- (a) a castle
(b) a town
(c) a lake
(d) a horde
8. Which of the following could be **detected**?
- (a) a slight movement
(b) the approach of enemy planes
(c) signs of life
(d) a change in the wind's direction

12D Word Study

Write a word from this or a previous lesson to complete each sentence. Use the explanation in parentheses to help you.

1. To _____ someone is to shut out that person. (The word comes from the Latin *cludere*, meaning "to shut.")
2. _____ refers to the earth's surface features. (The word comes from the Latin *terra*, meaning "earth.")
3. To _____ something is to give up control over it. (The word comes from the Latin *bandon*, meaning "control.")
4. To be _____ is to be full of life. (The word comes from the Latin *vita*, meaning "life.")
5. To _____ something is to make worse. (The word comes from the Latin *gravis*, meaning "heavy.")
6. A(n) _____ answer is one that is incorrect. (The word comes from the Latin *errare*, meaning "mistake.")
7. A(n) _____ is a particular area of land. (The word comes from the Latin *terra*, meaning "earth.")
8. To _____ something is to shorten it. (The word comes from the Latin *brevis*, meaning "short.")

9. Something that is _____ lasts for just a short time. (The word comes from the Latin *brevis*, meaning “short.”)
10. A person who feels danger and gives warning is called a(n) _____. (The word comes from the Latin *sentire*, meaning “to feel.”)

12E Passage

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

The Trojan Horse

Many captivating tales have come down to us from ancient Greece. They tell of great heroes, of goddesses and gods, and of stirring adventures. One of the best-known stories concerns the Trojan Horse. It began when Helen, wife of the Greek king Menelaus, was kidnapped and taken to the city of Troy.

The Greeks assembled a mighty fleet and sailed across the Aegean Sea in pursuit. After landing their army near Troy, they began laying **siege** to the city, the home of the Trojans. Although many battles were fought outside the city’s thick, high walls, the Trojans kept their **adversaries** at bay, so the Greeks were unable to force their way inside.

The war dragged on for ten long years. Then one day the Trojan **sentinels** saw the Greeks sail away! Further investigation revealed that the Greeks had **abandoned** their camp. The delighted Trojans at once declared the war over and themselves **victorious**. One thing **baffled** them, though. The Greeks had left behind an enormous wooden horse. What was it for? The Trojans finally decided that their enemies had left it as a gift to the gods.

Cassandra, a member of the Trojan royal family, warned the citizens of Troy that the wooden horse was a trick intended to bring about the destruction of their city. The Trojans, however, **scoffed** at her warning. They saw nothing **sinister** in the “gift” left by the Greeks, and they joyfully **hailed** the wooden horse through the gates and into the city. It could not have been otherwise. Some years before, Apollo, one of the gods of Mount Olympus, had fallen in love with Cassandra and had given her the ability to predict the future. But when she failed to return his love, Apollo spitefully declared that when she made a prediction, no one would believe her.

The people of Troy **rejoiced** far into the night. They were too busy enjoying themselves to pay close attention to the **colossal** wooden horse in their midst. They failed to examine it closely enough to **detect** the heavily armed Greek soldiers huddled inside, waiting for the right moment. At last the celebrations came to an end as the Trojans grew sleepy and one by one began to slumber. A stillness fell over the city. All seemed tranquil within Troy’s walls.

Then a concealed hatch in the wooden horse opened, and the Greek soldiers emerged, dropping silently to the ground. They quickly **overpowered** the Trojan guards and opened the city gates to admit the rest of the Greek soldiers, who had only pretended to sail away and were now hiding outside. The Trojans paid a terrible price for their **blunder**. Their city was destroyed and many of its people perished; the rest of the **woeful** inhabitants, including Cassandra, were taken into captivity. As for Helen, according to the most popular version of the story, she returned to Greece with Menelaus, and they lived happily ever after.

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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. Why were the Greeks and the Trojans **adversaries**?
2. What is the meaning of **woeful** as it is used in the passage?
3. What were two ways in which the **siege** could have ended?
4. What is the meaning of **abandoned** as it is used in the passage?
5. What did the Trojans think when they first saw the large wooden horse?
6. What **blunder** did the Trojans make?
7. How were the Greek soldiers able to hide inside the wooden horse?
8. Why was it necessary for the Greeks inside the horse to remain quiet?
9. How might the Trojans have **hailed** the wooden horse into the city?
10. Might the Trojans have seen anything **sinister** if they had looked more closely at the wooden horse?

11. Why did the Trojans **scoff** at Cassandra's warning?

12. What might have happened if the Trojans had **overpowered** the Greek soldiers as they emerged from the wooden horse?

13. Who should have been keeping watch on the wooden horse?

14. Why was the Trojans' **rejoicing** premature?

15. What was the outcome of the Trojan War?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

One of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world was a huge statue of the sun god Helios, erected at the entrance of the harbor at Rhodes, one of the Greek islands. The statue was called the Colossus of Rhodes and stood there for about sixty years until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 224 B.C.E.

The word *colossus* came to be applied to anything that is very large. That is why the United States is sometimes called "the *Colossus* of the North" by people of South and Central America. **Colossal** is the adjective form of this word.

The ancient Romans regarded the left side as unlucky. Soothsayers, people who were believed to

have the power to foretell the future, looked upon signs that appeared on the left as evidence of misfortune. Since the Latin word for "left" is **sinister**, it is easy to see how the word came to have its present meaning.

Haul and **hall** are homophones, words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. A **hall** is (1) a large room held for public meeting, (2) a passageway providing access to rooms along it, and (3) an entrance room in a building.