

Lesson 13

Word List

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

adapt

ə dapt'

v. 1. To change to fit new conditions.

Whales were once land animals but **adapted** well to life in the ocean.

2. To make changes in something to make it useful.

The students **adapted** a coat hanger for use as a radio antenna.

adaptation n. (ad əp tā' shən) 1. A changing to fit new conditions.

Adaptation to a full school day takes a while for some first graders.

2. Something that is changed from something else.

My Fair Lady is an **adaptation** of the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw.

deplete

dē plēt'

v. To use up.

Unless we are frugal, we will **deplete** our savings by the end of March.

efficient

ə fish' ənt

adj. Producing results without waste.

Tube lights are more **efficient** than light bulbs.

fatigue

fə tēg'

n. A feeling of tiredness from work or exercise.

Although overcome with **fatigue**, the runner persevered to the finish line.

v. To make or become tired.

Since my illness, even light work **fatigues** me.

gait

gāt

n. The way a person or animal moves on foot.

A horse's **gait** changes as it goes from a walk to a trot.

glare

glār

v. 1. To shine with a strong, harsh light.

The bright sun **glared** off the icy snowbanks, making it difficult to see.

2. To stare angrily at.

The store manager **glared** at me when I toppled the stack of books.

n. 1. A strong, blinding light.

The **glare** from oncoming cars is diminished if drivers dim their headlights.

2. An angry stare.

I ignored my adversary's **glare**, which I interpreted as an attempt to scare me.

glaring adj. 1. Shining with a harsh, brilliant light.

There was no shade from the **glaring** summer sun in the open fields.

2. Very obvious.

The manager detected a **glaring** error in the figures.

habitat

hab' i tat

n. The place or type of place where a plant or animal is normally found.

The **habitat** of the saguaro cactus is the desert of southwest Arizona.

oblivious

ə bliv' ē əs

adj. Not aware of.

The audience was **oblivious** to everything except the actor's inspired performance.

oblivion n. A state of forgetting or being forgotten.

These tunes sank into **oblivion** after the new Broadway show closed.

outmoded

out mōd' əd

adj. No longer needed or fashionable.The coming of the railroad made the stagecoach an **outmoded** way to travel.**prominent**

präm' ə nənt

adj. 1. Projecting; standing out.Mount Rushmore is a **prominent** feature of the Black Hills in South Dakota.

2. Very easy to see; easily noticed.

Pinocchio's **prominent** nose grew even longer every time he told a lie.

3. Famous; well-known.

The accident victim asked a **prominent** lawyer for advice.**quench**

kwench

v. 1. To put out; to extinguish.Not even reading three books on the subject could **quench** his interest in the mysterious stories about the haunted house.

2. To satisfy with a liquid.

Water **quenches** a thirst better than a sweetened soda drink.**rigor**

rig' ə

n. (often pl.) 1. A condition that makes life difficult.The orange tree couldn't survive the **rigors** of a Canadian winter.

2. Strictness or severity.

The police chief enforced the law with **rigor**.**rigorous** *adj.* 1. Severe; extreme.The team was put through a **rigorous** exercise program that included a daily eight-mile run.

2. Thorough; complete.

This **rigorous** thirty-day course of study has students speaking Italian effortlessly.**sear**

sēr

v. 1. To wither; to dry up.A long drought, as well as heat, can **sear** grass.

2. To burn the surface of with sudden heat.

Cooks **sear** steak to help retain the juices.**transport**

trans pôrt'

v. To carry or move from one place to another.A large truck **transports** sets and costumes for the company touring with the play.*n.* (trans' port) The act of carrying from one place to another.The company will arrange for the **transport** of the goods by rail.**wend**

wend

v. To travel; to go on one's way.It took two weeks to **wend** our way over the mountain pass.

13A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 13. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) a state of uncertainty.
(b) a feeling of tiredness.
- (c) Oblivion is
(d) Fatigue is

2. (a) A glaring error is one
(b) to which no one pays attention.
- (c) A rigorous rule is one
(d) that should be obvious to anyone.

3. (a) a feeling of worry or concern.
(b) Oblivion is
- (c) Adaptation is
(d) a total lack of awareness.

4. (a) is in a rundown condition.
(b) A prominent building is one that
- (c) stands out from those around it.
(d) An efficient building is one that

5. (a) Transport is
(b) a change to fit a new condition.
- (c) An adaptation is
(d) a breaking down of something into its parts.

6. (a) A gait is
(b) a slight burn.
- (c) an angry stare.
(d) A glare is

7. (a) To sear something is to
(b) burn its surface.
- (c) To quench something is to
(d) store it for later use.

8. (a) An animal's gait is
(b) its sense of smell.
- (c) An animal's habitat is
(d) the way it walks.

9. (a) is thorough and complete.
(b) is carried out carelessly.
- (c) A rigorous test is one that
(d) An outmoded test is one that

10. (a) a change in manner.
(b) A habitat is
- (c) the place a plant naturally grows.
(d) Transport is

adapt
deplete
efficient
fatigue
gait
glare
habitat
oblivious
outmoded
prominent
quench
rigor
sear
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wend

13B 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 13.

1. If it isn't careful, the state will **completely use up** its oil reserves in the near future.
2. Even a short walk **causes a feeling of tiredness to come over** these feeble patients.
3. Animals that do not **make changes to fit new conditions** fail to survive.
4. The mighty Mississippi **makes its way** slowly to the sea.
5. The Empire State Building is a **well-known and easily spotted** landmark in New York City.
6. **The carrying of goods to where they have to go** is the responsibility of the shipping department.
7. The **harsh and brilliant light** of the welding torch almost blinded me.
8. The lemur's **natural home and the place where it is normally found** is Madagascar.
9. The children can **have a drink to satisfy** their thirst at the water fountain.
10. A tune-up will help an engine be **able to work properly while using less energy**.
11. The method you propose is **no longer in use because a better one has been discovered**.
12. Penguins are well suited to the **harsh conditions** of the Antarctic.

13C 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 could be **transported**?
(a) animals
(b) terrain
(c) veterans
(d) supplies
2. Which of the following is **outmoded**?
(a) a fashion model
(b) the nineteenth century
(c) gaslight
(d) silent movies

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

- (a) a sneer (c) thirst
(b) a campfire (d) plans

4. Which of the following could be **adapted**?

- (a) a method (c) a tool
(b) a baby (d) a book

5. Which of the following can be **depleted**?

- (a) resources (c) supplies
(b) savings (d) debts

6. Which of the following might **glare**?

- (a) a spotlight (c) an angry person
(b) a radio (d) light reflected in a mirror

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

- (a) a fitness program (c) a climate
(b) an inspection (d) a blunder

8. Which of the following is a **gait**?

- (a) a posture (c) a limp
(b) a gallop (d) a haul

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13D Word Study

Writers often have to decide which of several words with similar meanings is the best choice to express the exact meaning they wish to give. Write the word from the pair above it that makes the most sense in each sentence.

transport/carry

- I saw Mom _____ the baby upstairs.
- A jet was waiting to _____ the important papers to the president.

oblivious/unaware

- I was _____ of the fact that Mars has an atmosphere.
- My dog Peyton was happily running around _____ to his surroundings.

woe/misery

5. Cries of _____ came from the people who had watched their houses slide down into the ocean.
6. I was in such _____ that I had to call the dentist about my toothache.

blunder/mistake

7. I made a _____ when I wrote down the address.
8. The candidate's major _____ cost him the election.

peril/danger

9. The child was in _____ of slipping on the ice.
10. The Argonauts faced each new _____ with steadfast courage.

gripe/complain

11. I told the sales clerk that I would _____ to the manager.
12. People _____ at having to stand in line at airports.

conserve/save

13. Buying your ticket through the internet will _____ you time.
14. Modern houses are built to _____ heat and lower fuel costs.

diminish/reduce

15. I will _____ the amount of fat I use in that recipe by one half.
16. The storm did not _____ until after midnight.

captive/prisoner

17. The _____ was released by the rebels after six months.
18. Each _____ in the county jail is awaiting trial.

origin/beginning

19. I turned back to the _____ of the story.
20. Do you know the _____ of the word "boycott?"

13E Passage

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

The Ship of the Desert

A long line of camels **wending** its way slowly across the skyline was once a familiar sight in the North African and Arabian deserts. These animals are actually dromedaries, the kind that most people think of when camels are mentioned. The Bedouins, the migrant people of the Arabian and Sahara deserts, call the dromedary "the ship of the desert" because it has **transported** goods and people over some of the most arid regions in the world for thousands of years.

Bearing its burden patiently, and seemingly **oblivious** to hunger and thirst, the dromedary can keep up a steady, plodding **gait**, traveling fifty miles a day for up to five days, without showing signs of **fatigue**. When it reaches water, it **quenches** its thirst by drinking as much as fifteen gallons at a time. When food is not available, it lives on the fat stored in its hump, which is not filled with water as some people think. The dromedary's hump fills out and is quite **prominent** when the animal is well fed; it gets smaller as the fat stored inside is **depleted**.

The dromedary is very well **adapted** to life in the desert. Its broad feet do not sink into soft sand, and it can close its nostrils completely during sandstorms while protecting its eyes with double rows of eyelashes. It is comfortable even in the **searing** heat of the desert and will stretch out in the full **glare** of the noonday sun even though shade may be available. The dromedary is capable of carrying up to six hundred pounds on its back, but it knows its limits. If given too heavy a burden, it will obstinately refuse to budge until the load is lightened.

Closely related to the dromedary is the Bactrian camel, whose **habitat** is the cold desert regions of Siberia, in central Asia. The Bactrian camel is smaller and sturdier than the dromedary, has shorter legs, and is covered with long, shaggy hair to protect it from the **rigorous** Siberian climate. But the most obvious difference between them is the number of humps. The dromedary has a single hump, while the Bactrian camel has two. Although both kinds have been domesticated for thousands of years, the Bactrian camel, unlike its cousin, is still found in the wild.

To the Bedouins and the migrant people of central Asia, the dromedary and Bactrian camel are much more than beasts of burden. Their hair provides wool for making clothes and carpets; their hides can be used to make tents and footwear; they can be milked like cows; and their meat, which tastes like veal or beef, forms an important part of these peoples' diets.

In spite of their great versatility, both kinds of camels are becoming **outmoded** means of transportation in the modern world. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are more **efficient**; they can travel faster and further and carry heavier loads. That long line of camels wending its way across the Arabian desert is joining the American wagon train that headed west in the 1800s—something you see only in the movies.

adapt
deplete
efficient
fatigue
gait
glare
habitat
oblivious
outmoded
prominent
quench
rigor
sear
transport
wend

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 camels called beasts of burden?

2. How has the use of camels as beasts of burden been affected by jeeps?

3. Name one way in which four-wheel-drive vehicles are more **efficient** than camels.

4. What is the **habitat** of the dromedary?

5. Why might it be advisable to wear sunglasses in the North African desert?

6. Why can the North African desert at noon be an uncomfortable place for humans?

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

8. How did the Bedouins once travel across the desert?

9. Why do you think dromedaries do not bother to seek shade?

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

11. What would a shrunken hump on a dromedary tell you about the animal?

12. What is the meaning of **quenches** as it is used in the passage?

13. What sort of weather might one expect in Siberia's **rigorous** climate?

14. How do dromedaries and Bactrian camels conserve energy while moving?

15. How might a dromedary be affected if made to travel more than fifty miles a day?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Adapt means "to change in order to fit new conditions" or "to make changes in, so as to be of use." *Adopt* means "to choose and take into one's family." (Childless couples often would like to *adopt* a child.) *Adopt* also means "to take and use as one's own." (The English writer Mary Ann Evans *adopted* the name George Eliot because women novelists were not taken seriously in mid-nineteenth-century England.) *Adapt* and *adopt* can be confused because their meanings overlap slightly. It is possible to *adopt* someone else's idea and then *adapt* it so as to improve it or use it for a different purpose.

A **gait** is a manner or way of walking. A person in a hurry may walk with a fast *gait*. A sailor, used to being on a ship, may walk with a rolling *gait*.

A **gate** is a hinged door in a fence or wall. *Gait* and *gate* are homophones.

Don't confuse **oblivious** with *obvious*, which means "easy to see or understand." (The answers to

the questions were *obvious* to anyone who had read the book.)

Oblivious takes either *of* or *to* after it. (I was *oblivious* of the danger. The party in power remained *oblivious* to the need for change.)

Fatigue is a French word that comes from the Latin verb *fatigare*, which means "to tire." *Fatigue* has been taken into English with its spelling and pronunciation unchanged.

This word has two other meanings, which are used in the military. *Fatigue* is domestic duty performed by people in the military; *fatigues* are special clothing worn by military personnel while performing these tasks and while in the field.