

Lesson 14

Word List

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

benevolent
bə nev' ə lənt

adj. Wanting to do good; kind.

A **benevolent** employee paid for the team's Little League uniforms.

consent
kən sent'

v. To agree; to allow to happen.

The judges **consented** to hear the case.

n. Permission; approval.

Students need a parent's **consent** to go on the field trip.

discreet
di skrēt'

adj. Showing care or wisdom in what one says or does.

The committee made **discreet** inquiries into the candidate's past.

discretion *n.* (di skresh' ən) The ability to handle matters wisely.

The English teacher left the choice of books to our **discretion**.

engross
en grōs'

v. To take up one's complete attention.

The puzzle so **engrossed** me that I lost track of time.

engrossing *adj.* Taking up one's complete attention.

The **engrossing** conversation made everyone oblivious to the ringing doorbell.

esteem
e stēm'

v. To think highly of; to respect.

Historians **esteem** Eleanor Roosevelt for her work on human rights.

n. Respect; high regard.

The players credit their success to the great **esteem** they feel for their coach.

esteemed *adj.* Highly regarded.

An **esteemed** member of the scientific community was the unanimous choice to head the task force on air pollution.

exaggerate
eg zəj' ə r āt

v. To describe something as larger or greater than it really is.

Some donors **exaggerate** the value of their contributions to the campaign.

exaggeration *n.* (eg zəj' ə r ā' shən) Something that is **exaggerated**.

Saying that your baseball card collection is worth thousands of dollars is quite an **exaggeration**.

extensive
ek sten' sɪv

adj. 1. Covering a large area.

Central Park is an **extensive** green expanse in the middle of Manhattan.

2. Ambitious; far-reaching.

The team made **extensive** preparations for the Himalayan expedition.

fantastic
fan tas' tɪk

adj. 1. Almost unbelievable.

The guests on the talk show told a **fantastic** tale of being followed by creatures from outer space.

2. Unusual; odd.

Spectators saw the most **fantastic** costumes at the Mardi Gras parade.

intrigue
in trēg'

v. 1. To fascinate.

The way stage magicians do their tricks **intrigues** me.

2. To plot in a secret way; to scheme.

Benedict Arnold **intrigued** against his own country to help the British.

n. (in' trēg) A secret plot or scheme.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was beheaded when Elizabeth I learned of her **intrigues** against the throne.

marvel
mär' vəl

n. A wonderful or amazing thing.

The Amazon River is one of the great **marvels** of nature.

v. To be filled with wonder or amazement.

The world **marveled** at the pictures of astronauts walking on the moon.

marvelous *adj.* 1. Causing wonder; astonishing.

It would be **marvelous** if we made contact with intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

2. Of the highest quality; splendid.

The school play has a **marvelous** part for a versatile actor.

mission
mish' ən

n. 1. A special or important task or assignment.

The ambassador's **mission** was to arrange a meeting with the prime minister.

2. A group sent on an important assignment.

The **mission** from Israel agreed to resume the peace talks.

opportunity
öp'ər tōō' nə tē

n. 1. A time that is right for doing something.

The captives looked for an **opportunity** to escape.

2. A chance for getting ahead.

This job offers plenty of **opportunity** for a diligent young person.

relinquish
rē liŋ' kwish

v. To let go; to give up.

The little boy who found the lost puppy didn't want to **relinquish** it.

tyrant
tī' rənt

n. A ruler or person who has complete power and uses it in cruel or unjust ways.

The **tyrant** lived in splendor while his people lived in squalor.

tyranny *n.* (tir' ə nē) Rule by a tyrant.

Joseph Stalin's **tyranny** over the people of the Soviet Union did not end until his death in 1953.

vanquish
vaj' kwish

v. To defeat utterly and completely; to overcome.

Success quickly **vanquishes** fear.

14A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 14. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) An opportunity is
(b) an unjust ruler.

- (c) a failure to act in time.
(d) A tyrant is

- | | |
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| 2. (a) A discreet person is one who
(b) is kind to others. | (c) is quick to quarrel with others.
(d) A benevolent person is one who |
| 3. (a) To esteem someone
(b) is to be very interesting to that person. | (c) To intrigue someone
(d) is to give that person one's total support. |
| 4. (a) a chance to get ahead.
(b) A mission is | (c) a chance that is missed.
(d) An opportunity is |
| 5. (a) be filled with wonder.
(b) To marvel is to | (c) To consent is to
(d) stay longer than intended. |
| 6. (a) An exaggeration is
(b) a group sent to do a special task. | (c) A mission is
(d) a time that is right for doing something. |
| 7. (a) An esteemed friend is one
(b) who cannot keep a secret. | (c) who is looked up to.
(d) A discreet friend is one |
| 8. (a) Extensive claims are those that
(b) can be easily settled. | (c) Exaggerated claims are those that
(d) cover a wide range. |
| 9. (a) is one that goes on for too long.
(b) is one that sounds very strange. | (c) A fantastic musical piece
(d) An engrossing musical piece |

14B 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 14.

- The lawyers **think highly of** the judge's opinion in this case.
- By sheer perseverance we **won a complete victory over** our adversaries.
- The employees will ask for a raise at the next **time that seems right for doing so**.

4. My parents **gave their permission** when I asked if I could have a pet.
5. The search for the missing plane was **carried out over a large area** but failed to reveal any trace of wreckage.
6. When I said that the fish weighed twenty pounds, I was **claiming it to be much larger than it really was**.
7. The Taj Mahal is one of the **great and wonderful sights** of India.
8. The patient can rely on the doctor's **ability to handle matters wisely**.
9. If you found the conversation so **interesting that it took up your whole attention**, why can you not remember what was said?
10. The campaign manager had to **give up** her claim to a share of the money.
11. The masks worn during the secret ceremony were **so strange as to be almost unbelievable**.

14C Applying Meanings

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

benevolent
consent
discreet
engross
esteem
exaggerate
extensive
fantastic
intrigue
marvel
mission
opportunity
relinquish
tyrant
vanquish

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

(a) resources	(c) territory
(b) a campaign	(d) a puddle
2. Which of the following increase a person's **opportunities**?

(a) diligence	(c) education
(b) bankruptcy	(d) poverty
3. Which of the following is **benevolent**?

(a) a sinister look	(c) an affectionate greeting
(b) a sneering remark	(d) an act of persecution
4. Which of the following express **consent**?

(a) "I guess so."	(c) "Not on your life."
(b) "Okay."	(d) "Maybe."

5. Which of the following can be **vanquished**?
- (a) nervousness (c) jeopardy
(b) adversaries (d) inhibitions
6. Which of the following are **exaggerations**?
- (a) "This suitcase weighs a ton." (c) "I waited for you for ages."
(b) "I'll never forget that day." (d) "We almost died laughing."
7. Which of the following could be **discreet**?
- (a) a friend (c) a statement
(b) an offer (d) an antic
8. Which of the following express **esteem**?
- (a) "You're the greatest." (c) "You're inept."
(b) "You do mediocre work." (d) "You're extremely versatile."

14D Word Study

Words that have different meanings and different spelling but sound the same are called homophones. Here are five pairs of homophones:

horde	stationary	haul	gait	seer
hoard	stationery	hall	gate	sear

Look at each of the sentences below and decide whether the bolded word is being used correctly. If it is, write "correct" on the line. If it is incorrect, write the correct spelling.

- There were three exits leading from the **hall**. _____
- Sue closed the **gait** behind her when she entered the garden. _____
- The map showed where the pirates' **hoard** of gold was buried. _____
- The boat returned with a large **haul** of cod. _____
- People **horde** food if they expect shortages. _____
- We picked up the envelopes at the **stationery** store. _____
- The hot coals on the grill quickly **seer** the meat. _____
- Jon's leg injury left him with an awkward **gate**. _____

9. A **hoard** of tourists got off the bus in the town center. _____
10. The village was ten miles away, a long **haul** on foot. _____
11. A horse's **gait** is different from that of a camel. _____
12. In ancient Rome, people who wanted to know the future visited a **seer**. _____
13. The hot sun will **sear** the plants in those small pots. _____
14. The vehicle was **stationary** at the time of the accident. _____
15. The price of gasoline remained **stationery** over the summer. _____

14E Passage

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

The Travels of Marco Polo

One of the most **engrossing** travel books ever written is over seven hundred years old. *The Travels of Marco Polo* tells the story of a young Venetian's adventurous life, and although it was written so long ago, you can probably find a copy of it on the shelves of your local bookstore or library.

Marco Polo was only seventeen when, in the year 1271, he set out from Venice for the Chinese court of Kublai Khan, the ruler of most of Asia. He accompanied members of his family who were in the service of Kublai Khan and who were now returning to China after a visit home. The journey took four years.

The great Mongol empire Kublai Khan ruled had been founded fifty years earlier when his grandfather, Genghis Khan, one of the most feared **tyrants** in history, had **vanquished** most of the other rulers in Asia. Kublai Khan, by contrast, was a wise and **benevolent** ruler. He soon discovered that Marco Polo was an intelligent young man and **discreet** enough to be trusted with information that the emperor hesitated to share with others at the court. Furthermore, since Marco Polo planned to return to Venice later, he was unlikely to **intrigue** against the emperor. For these reasons Kublai Khan trusted Marco Polo to travel **extensively** throughout Asia, carrying out important **missions**.

After seventeen years Marco Polo grew homesick and wished to return to Venice; however, he could not go without the emperor's permission. Kublai Khan held the young man in high **esteem** and had rewarded him with important positions in his court; he was naturally reluctant to **relinquish** the services of such a valued friend and adviser. But finally the emperor gave his **consent**, and in 1295, after a journey that lasted three years, Marco Polo arrived back in Venice.

He soon became very popular because of the stories he told of his travels. Many of his Venetian listeners thought he must be **exaggerating** because the things he claimed to have seen seemed too **fantastic** to be believed. In fact, Marco Polo was telling the truth. He had seen creatures with huge jaws and sharp teeth that could swallow a person whole (crocodiles), black stones that burned with a great heat (coal), and many other **marvels**.

benevolent
consent
discreet
engross
esteem
exaggerate
extensive
fantastic
intrigue
marvel
mission
opportunity
relinquish
tyrant
vanquish

Three years after his return, Marco Polo was taken prisoner in a war against Genoa. The year he spent in captivity gave him the **opportunity** to dictate his travel adventures to a fellow prisoner. The book that resulted became one of the most popular and widely translated works ever written and for hundreds of years has been entertaining readers all over the world.

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. Do you think Kublai Khan was **esteemed** by his subjects? Why or why not?
2. How would you describe the size of the territory Kublai Khan ruled?
3. How did Ghengis Khan establish his empire?
4. Why was there no appeal against any of Genghis Khan's rulings?
5. Would it be true to say that Marco Polo traveled all over the world? Why or why not?
6. How did Kublai Khan demonstrate his **benevolence** toward Marco Polo?
7. What was the purpose of Marco Polo's travels through Asia?
8. Was Marco Polo free to return to Venice whenever he chose?
9. How might a less **discreet** person than Marco Polo have behaved at court?

10. What is the meaning of **fantastic** as it is used in the passage?
11. Why would Kublai Khan trust a foreigner like Marco Polo to work for him?
12. Why did Marco Polo want to **relinquish** his position in Kublai Khan's court?
13. What is the meaning of **opportunity** as it is used in the passage?
14. Why did crocodiles and coal seem like **marvels** to the Venetians?
15. Why do you think Marco Polo's book remains in print after 700 years?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

It's not uncommon to hear people say, "I had a **fantastic** time," when what they mean is, "I had a wonderful time." Note that *fantastic* has two meanings and neither of them is a synonym for *wonderful*. When a word is misused in this way, its real meaning is weakened. Should little green creatures from outer space take you aboard their space ship, it would be accurate to say that you had a fantastic time since your story would be hard to believe. You probably would not have had a wonderful time, however, since the experience would in likelihood have been a terrifying one.

The antonym of **benevolent** is *malevolent*. A *malevolent* person is someone who wishes to do evil to others.

In Roman times, as indeed throughout history, when sailors headed *toward port* after a long voyage, they could at last look forward to having an **opportunity** to do all the things they had been unable to do while living in cramped fashion on board a small boat. The word *opportunity* suggests this; it is formed from the Latin prefix *ob-*, which means "to" or "toward" (*ob-* changes to *op-* before the letter *p*) and *portum*, which means "a port."