

Lesson 7

Word List

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

brawl
brōl

n. A rough, noisy fight.

A **brawl** broke out when one of the workers accused another of stealing.

v. To fight noisily.

Players who **brawl** during the game are fined.

casual
kəzʰ əl

adj. 1. Not planned.

Several friends got together for a **casual** meeting after the movie.

2. Not regular; occasional.

I have a **casual** job doing errands for my uncle when he needs me.

3. Suitable for everyday use; comfortable.

The store sells **casual** apparel for the beach.

constant
kən stənt

adj. 1. Not changing.

The function of cruise control is to keep the car at a **constant** speed.

2. Loyal; faithful.

The farmer's **constant** companion is an affectionate collie.

3. Without a pause; unending.

A small child requires **constant** attention.

excel
ek sel

v. To do well; to be better or greater than others.

Babe Ruth **excelled** both as a pitcher and as a batter.

exhaust
eg zōst

v. 1. To use up.

Lost on the mountain, the climbers **exhausted** their supplies after two days.

2. To tire out.

A ten-mile hike will **exhaust** most people.

n. The waste gases from an engine; *also*, the system that pumps out such waste gases.

The muffler is often the first part of the **exhaust** to wear out.

hardy
hār dē

adj. Able to survive under bad conditions; tough.

Sage is a **hardy** plant that can be left outside during the winter.

mediocre
mē dē ō kar

adj. Of low to medium quality; barely passable.

Mediocre grades make it difficult to get into a good college.

monotonous
mə nāt n əs

adj. Always the same; not varying; boring.

Making photocopies is **monotonous** work.

monotony *n.* Lack of variety resulting in boredom.

Switching tasks helps to relieve the **monotony** of assembly-line work.

originate
ə rij' ə nāt

v. To bring or come into being.

The custom of sending Valentine cards **originated** in the 1800s.

origin n. (ōr' ə jin) A beginning or coming into being.

What is the **origin** of the story that alligators live in the New York sewers?

punctuate
pʌŋk' chōō āt

v. 1. To add marks such as commas and periods to writing to make the meaning clear.

Choose the best way to **punctuate** this sentence.

2. To interrupt from time to time.

Claps of thunder **punctuated** the evening.

punctuation n. (pʌŋk chōō ā' shən) The use of marks such as commas and periods in writing.

Using a comma instead of a semicolon is a common error in **punctuation**.

ravenous
rav' ə nəs

adj. 1. Very hungry.

The skaters were **ravenous** because they'd skipped lunch.

2. Eager for whatever satisfies one's needs or wants.

To be **ravenous** for praise shows a lack of confidence in oneself.

realistic
rē ə lis' tik

adj. 1. Closely resembling real life.

This video game has very **realistic** race-car sounds.

2. Aware of things as they are; practical.

Running a Saturday car wash is a **realistic** way for the club to raise money.

soothe
sōōth

v. 1. To make calm and relaxed.

The principal tried to **soothe** the angry students by promising to consider their demands.

2. To relieve soreness; to make less painful.

Calamine lotion will **soothe** a sunburn.

stampede
stam pēd'

n. A sudden rush of animals or people, usually caused by fear.

A breeze carried the lion's scent to the antelope and began a **stampede** of the herd.

v. To take part in a stampede.

The crowd **stampeded** for the exit when someone yelled "Fire!"

veteran
vet' ə rən

n. 1. A person who has served in the armed forces.

Veterans in their World War II uniforms marched in the Memorial Day parade.

2. A person with much experience.

The new director is a **veteran** who has been with the dance company from its beginning.

adj. Experienced.

We were fortunate to have several **veteran** musicians in our band.

7A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 7. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) a person who has much experience. (c) a sudden rush of frightened animals.
(b) A veteran is (d) A brawl is

2. (a) A realistic offer is one that
(b) is made in a joking manner.
- (c) A casual offer is one that
(d) seems to make a lot of sense.
-
3. (a) A stampede is
(b) a rope used by cowboys.
- (c) a rough and noisy fight.
(d) A brawl is
-
4. (a) Monotony is
(b) markings that make the meaning
of writing clearer.
- (c) Punctuation is
(d) a state of very great hunger.
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5. (a) To stampede cattle is to
(b) cause them to rush off in a panic.
- (c) To soothe cattle is to
(d) put them out to feed on grass.
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6. (a) A monotonous inspection
(b) A casual inspection
- (c) is one that is thorough.
(d) is one made without much thought.
-
7. (a) To exhaust someone is to
(b) help that person relax.
- (c) forget about that person.
(d) To soothe someone is to
-
8. (a) To excel at something is to
(b) bring it to a sudden end.
- (c) To originate something is to
(d) do it better than others.

brawl
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constant
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hardy
mediocre
monotonous
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punctuate
ravenous
realistic
soothe
stampede
veteran

7B 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 7.

1. He doesn't seem to be very **aware of how things really are** when he talks about his future plans.
2. The speech was **interrupted a number of times** by bursts of applause from the audience.
3. To spend winters in Alaska you need to be **tough enough to withstand difficult conditions**.

4. The rumor that the bank had failed caused a **panic** in which everyone rushed for the tellers' windows.
5. It takes a **person with years of experience** as a chef to run a smoothly functioning restaurant kitchen.
6. After being away for so long, the travelers were **very eager** for news from home.
7. By the time our supply of firewood was **used up**, warmer weather had arrived.
8. A hot bath will **ease the soreness** of your aching muscles.
9. Teenagers prefer clothes that are **suitable for everyday wear** and don't need ironing.
10. The telephone sales work is **boring because it lacks variety**, but it pays well.
11. Who **first came up with** the idea of growing plants in water?
12. Once set, the speed of the escalator was **fixed and did not change**.

7C 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 are **casual** clothes?
 - (a) blue jeans
 - (b) an evening gown
 - (c) a dark blue suit
 - (d) a track suit
2. Which of the following help musicians **excel**?
 - (a) watching television
 - (b) practicing every day
 - (c) listening to their teachers
 - (d) having innate ability
3. Which of the following is a **mediocre** grade?
 - (a) A-
 - (b) C-
 - (c) B+
 - (d) F
4. Which of the following would a **ravenous** person want to do?
 - (a) eat
 - (b) relax
 - (c) sleep
 - (d) exercise

5. Which of the following could **stampede**?
- (a) ants (c) a horde of shoppers
(b) a herd of cows (d) a row of trees
6. Which of the following **punctuate** a piece of writing?
- (a) sentences (c) adjectives
(b) commas (d) question marks
7. Which of the following could be **monotonous**?
- (a) a voice (c) a jaunt
(b) a journey (d) a triumph
8. Which of the following might take part in a **brawl**?
- (a) newborns (c) a herd of cattle
(b) hockey players (d) demonstrators at a rally

7D Word Study

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

- To _____ to something is to give along with others. (The word is formed from the prefix *con-*, which means "with," together with a root formed from the Latin word *tribuere*, which means "to grant or give.")
- A(n) _____ speaker is one who reaches out and moves an audience with the power of spoken language. (The word is formed from the Latin prefix *e-*, which means "out," together with a root formed from the Latin word *loqui*, which means "to speak.")
- _____ are people who leave their homeland and settle in another country. (The word is formed from the prefix *im-*, which means "in," together with a root formed from the Latin word *migrare*, which means "to depart.")
- To _____ different elements is to bring them together into a whole. (The word is formed from the Latin word *integrare*, which means "to make whole.")
- A(n) _____ story is one that is hard to believe. (The word is formed from the Latin prefix *in-*, which means "not," together with a root formed from the Latin word *credere*, which means "to believe.")

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6. _____ qualities are those that a person is born with. (The word is formed from the Latin prefix *in-* (which means “in” as well as “not”), together with a root formed from the Latin word *natus*, which means “born.”)
7. The _____ Court is the highest court in the land. (The word is formed from a root formed from the Latin word *supreme*, which means “highest.”)
8. _____ conditions are those unfit for living because of dirt and other unhealthy conditions. (The word is formed from the Latin word *squalus*, which means “filthy.”)
9. A(n) _____ is a decision reached at the end of a trial. (The word comes from roots formed from two Latin words, *verus*, which means “truth,” and *dicere*, which means “to say.”)
10. _____ animals live near or in people’s homes. (The word is formed from the Latin *domus*, which means “home.”)

7E Passage

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

Home, Home on the Range

People may think they know all about the cowboys of the Wild West from watching westerns, but Hollywood movies do not give a very **realistic** picture of the life cowboys really led. Cowboy movies are **punctuated** throughout by gunfire, but real cowboys were mostly **mediocre** shots and seldom had reason to draw their guns; they carried them mostly for display. However, they did **excel** at riding and roping steers, essential skills for men whose job was handling cattle.

Although you would not know it from the movies, about a third of all cowboys were African American or Latino. In fact, the first cowboys came from Mexico and were called *vaqueros*, from the Spanish word *vaca*, which means “cow.” The *vaqueros* contributed to the English language many of the words we associate with the Wild West, including *sombrero*, *mustang*, and *rodeo*.

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, the *vaqueros*’ numbers swelled with **veterans** who headed west to work on cattle ranches. Many were African Americans who found a greater degree of freedom in lands that were just opening up to settlement, and the rodeo offered them an opportunity to prove their worth. One of the earliest performers was an African American cowboy named Nat Love, who was born in a Tennessee slave cabin in 1854. As a boy of fifteen, he worked as a trail hand out of Dodge City, learning the riding and roping skills that made him a star of the rodeo. Perhaps the most famous rodeo performer was Bill Pickett, star of the Miller Brothers’ Wild West Show, and the first African American admitted to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Westerns usually show the cowboys in town having a good time, but the lives of the real cowboys were quite **monotonous** and were spent mostly working on the range. At that time, cowboys drove the cattle along trails that **originated** in Texas, where most of the cattle ranches were located, and ended in Kansas City, Abilene, or Dodge City. From there the cattle were shipped east on the recently built railroads.

Cowboys found **casual** employment as trail hands for these great cattle drives, which covered hundreds of miles and lasted up to three months. They were in the saddle from sunup to sundown as they herded the moving cattle. Cowboys kept a string of mustangs, the **hardy** wild ponies that roamed the plains, and changed to fresh mounts several times a day. Working hard in the open air made the cowboys **ravenous**, and when the evening sun went down, they were too **exhausted** to do anything but eat and sleep. Cowboys took turns during the night keeping a **constant** watch over the cattle, and whenever they seemed restless, the cowboys would **soothe** them by singing softly. Any loud noise or sudden movement could panic the herd and start a **stampede**. Then several thousand frantic cattle would suddenly charge off into the darkness with the hastily awakened cowboys in pursuit.

When the hands were paid at the end of the trail, they headed into town to spend their money. Those were the times when **brawls** might erupt. It was then that a cowboy's life was most likely to resemble what we see in the movies.

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 is the meaning of **exhausted** as it is used in the passage?

2. Why did cowboys on the trail need to be especially alert during a thunderstorm?

3. How might western movies be made more **realistic**?

4. When do you think a cowboy might find himself locked up in the town jail?

5. Why were mustangs especially suitable for work on the cattle drives?

6. What is the meaning of **punctuate** as it is used in the passage?

7. Why do you think movies don't give an accurate picture of cowboys' lives?

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8. Why do you think sharpshooting was not featured at rodeos?

9. What is the meaning of **casual** as it is used in the passage?

10. What is the **origin** of *sombrero* and *mustang*?

11. Why do you think roping steers was a popular feature of the rodeo?

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

13. What do you think would be a welcome sight to **ravenous** cowboys?

14. How did the end of the Civil War affect the Wild West?

15. What is the meaning of **constant** as it is used in the passage?