

Lesson 9

Word List

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

accumulate
ə kyōōm' yōō lāt

v. To increase in number or amount; to pile up, collect, or gather.

An inch of snow **accumulated** overnight.

aggravate
ag' rə vāt

v. 1. To make worse.

The skater **aggravated** an old knee injury when she fell.

2. To anger or annoy.

That loud rock music from the club **aggravates** the neighbors.

aggravation n. (ag rə vā' shən) 1. Annoyance; exasperation.

My **aggravation** increased as the noisy construction continued outside my window.

2. A source of annoyance or exasperation.

Deer and rabbits are a continuous **aggravation** to rural gardeners.

conserve
kən surv'

v. To save by using carefully.

Lower speed limits help **conserve** gasoline.

conservation n. (kən sər vā' shən) The saving or protection of something through careful use.

A plan for the **conservation** of open space was unveiled at the town meeting.

contaminate
kən tam' i nāt

v. To harm by contact with something undesirable.

Chemicals spilled last year continue to **contaminate** the lake.

contamination n. (kən tam i nā' shən) The act of or result of contaminating.

Salt used on the roads in winter could lead to the **contamination** of ground water.

diminish
di min' ish

v. To make or become smaller or less; to reduce.

Constant violations of the housing regulations will **diminish** the quality of life for all the inhabitants.

drastic
dras' tik

adj. Severe; extreme.

Evil crimes receive **drastic** punishment in this new novel.

extravagant
ek strāv' ə gənt

adj. Spending, costing, or using more than is required.

Shawn's buying lunch for everyone was an **extravagant** thing to do.

extravagance n. 1. The quality of being wasteful or spending more than is necessary.

Emma's **extravagance** in early adulthood led to poverty later.

2. A thing that costs more than one can afford.

I admit the team jacket was an **extravagance**, but I couldn't resist buying it.

frugal
frōō' gəl

adj. Careful in spending or using something.

The bill for the splendid wedding ceremony shocked my **frugal** relatives.

impurity
im pyōōr' ə tē

n. Something that is harmful or dirty.

Filtering removes the **impurities** from water.

peril
per' əl

n. Danger; something that is dangerous.
The sailor understood the **peril** involved in a solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.
imperil *v.* (im per' əl) To place in danger.
A driver's ineptness **imperils** the passengers.
perilous *adj.* (per' ə ləs) Dangerous.
An expedition into enemy territory could be **perilous**.

perpetual
per pech' ū əl

adj. Lasting or seeming to last forever or for a long time; continuous.
A **perpetual** calendar can be used year after year.

resource
rē' sōrs

n. 1. A supply that can be used when there is a need.
Coal, aluminum, and lumber are natural **resources**.
2. Skill in dealing with difficult situations.
The committee's **resource** in working out the plan for integration is admirable.
resourceful *adj.* (rē sōrs' fəl) Able to deal with difficult problems.
A **resourceful** person will triumph over difficulties.

substitute
sub' stə tōt

v. To replace one thing or person for another.
Cooks sometimes **substitute** lemon for vinegar in salad dressing.
n. Something or someone that replaces another.
A flutist is a **substitute** for the violinist in tonight's concert.
adj. Acting in place of someone or something else.
The **substitute** teacher tolerated the class's antics.

sustain
sə stān'

v. 1. To keep up; to support.
Their firm belief that they would be rescued **sustained** them.
2. To suffer; to undergo.
The driver of the wrecked car **sustained** serious injuries.

vital
vī' l

adj. 1. Necessary for continued life or prosperity.
Oil is **vital** to the economy of the country.
2. Full of lively spirit.
Nelson Mandela's **vital** personality enabled him to survive years of imprisonment without bitterness.
3. Of the greatest importance.
It is **vital** that an official attend to the transfer immediately.

9A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 9. Write each sentence on the line provided.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. (a) a source of annoyance. | (c) a source of danger. |
| (b) An extravagance is | (d) An aggravation is |

2. (a) that make a bad situation worse. (c) Drastic measures are those
(b) that are extreme in nature. (d) Frugal measures are those
3. (a) a gradual increase over time. (c) Conservation is
(b) Contamination is (d) contact with something harmful.
4. (a) a way of politely saying no. (c) something that is harmful or dirty.
(b) A substitute is (d) An impurity is
5. (a) to increase its amount. (c) To conserve wealth is
(b) to spend it wastefully. (d) To accumulate wealth is
6. (a) A substitute player is one who (c) A vital player is one who
(b) suffers an injury. (d) replaces another one.
7. (a) never seem to end. (c) seem reasonable.
(b) Diminished demands are those that (d) Perpetual demands are those that
8. (a) Something that is perilous is (c) quite harmless.
(b) very dangerous. (d) Someone who is resourceful is
9. (a) A resource is something (c) An extravagance is something
(b) that requires attention. (d) that costs more than one can easily afford.

9B 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 9.

- Many stores in the area **had to suffer through** a loss of business when the shipyard closed.
- The taxpayers did not approve of the town's **wasteful spending of large amounts of money**.

3. The new medicine was recalled because it contained many **dirty and harmful substances**.
4. A thick layer of dust had **gathered little by little** on top of the piano.
5. A cook who is **careful not to waste anything** can make interesting dishes from leftovers.
6. The pain started to **become less severe** after a few days.
7. Our **abilities to deal with difficult situations** were tested to the maximum when our raft was propelled into dangerous rapids.
8. She seems so **full of lively spirit** that one forgets she is seriously ill.
9. The stage manager faced many **things that bothered or annoyed her** in trying to be ready for opening night.
10. By driving recklessly, you **placed in real danger** the lives of your passengers.
11. **Very severe** changes in the law are needed to deal with drunk drivers.
12. Unwashed hands can easily **bring dirt into contact with** food products.
13. The **careful use and saving** of water is extremely important on a long expedition.

accumulate
 aggravate
 conserve
 contaminate
 diminish
 drastic
 extravagant
 frugal
 impurity
 peril
 perpetual
 resource
 substitute
 sustain
 vital

9C 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 would **conserve** gasoline?

(a) driving less often	(c) driving at slower speeds
(b) traveling by bus or train	(d) buying smaller cars
2. Which of the following would **diminish** one's freedom?

(a) being held captive	(c) joining the Navy
(b) having one's driver's license taken away	(d) being released from prison
3. Which of the following are **vital** in a democracy?

(a) voting in elections	(c) learning about the issues
(b) advertising on television	(d) joining a political party

4. Which of the following might a **frugal** person do?

(a) save used string	(c) compare prices
(b) buy expensive presents	(d) travel by taxi

5. Which of the following are **natural resources**?

(a) copper	(c) air
(b) iron	(d) coal

6. Which of the following are **substitutes** for sugar?

(a) honey	(c) chocolate
(b) artificial sweeteners	(d) corn syrup

7. Which of the following are needed to **sustain** life?

(a) oxygen	(c) water
(b) food	(d) education

8. Which of the following might **aggravate** a sore throat?

(a) eating ice cream	(c) screaming
(b) coughing	(d) shouting

9D Word Study

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the *S* if they are synonyms, the *A* if they are antonyms.

1. necessary	safe	drastic	vital	S	A
2. aggravate	linger	accumulate	annoy	S	A
3. impurity	expanse	peril	danger	S	A
4. substitute	replace	diminish	skirmish	S	A
5. extravagant	frugal	drastic	lengthy	S	A
6. resourceful	continuous	perpetual	anxious	S	A
7. increase	sustain	diminish	compete	S	A
8. waste	shed	conserve	contaminate	S	A
9. extreme	resourceful	realistic	drastic	S	A

9E Passage

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

Water, Water, Everywhere

What sets our planet apart from all the others? Pictures from space show Earth to be the blue planet, its color coming from the water that covers about three quarters of its surface. To the best of our knowledge, ours is the only planet that can **sustain** life, and water is the reason. You'd think we would treat something so **vital** to our lives as a valuable gift, but sadly, that has not been the case. Except during times of drought, when we realize how precious it is, water is something we take very much for granted.

The water that makes up the earth's rivers, oceans, and lakes is always in motion. As it is warmed by the sun, water evaporates into the air and the vapor forms clouds, leaving behind the **impurities** that were dissolved in the water. As the vapor cools, it forms water droplets that eventually fall as rain. The rainfall **accumulates** in the earth's different bodies of water, where it is heated by the sun and evaporates once more. This process is known as the rain cycle, and it has gone on **perpetually** since it started—about 500,000 years after the earth was formed. It is nature's way of keeping the earth's supply of water clean. For billions of years it worked well, but with the growth of industry and the increase in population over the past two hundred years, the situation has changed **drastically**.

The standard of living that Americans enjoy exceeds anything our ancestors dreamed of. But the conveniences of daily life that we are accustomed to have been obtained at a terrible price. In our eagerness to make what we call progress, we have **contaminated** our rivers, oceans, and lakes by emptying the raw sewage from our toilets into them. We have **aggravated** the problem by allowing chemical pesticides and fertilizers used on crops to run off into our water supplies. We have also dumped poisonous chemicals into landfills so that in many places the water lying under the ground **imperils** the health of those who eventually drink it. As a result, the amount of clean water is **diminishing**.

Human beings have often demonstrated how **resourceful** they can be when there are problems to be solved. When we run out of something we need, we can usually find something else to take its place; however, there is no **substitute** for water. We have to learn to **conserve** this precious liquid as though our lives depend on it—because they do. An **extravagant** person is sometimes said to "spend money like water." Now, however, the time has come for us to learn to be **frugal** and spend our water as carefully as a penny pincher spends money.

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 are three things that can **contaminate** water?

2. What is the meaning of **aggravate** as it is used in the passage?

3. What three ways can you think of to practice water **conservation**?
4. What is the meaning of **substitute** as it is used in the passage?
5. What happens to the quantity of clean water as water pollution increases?
6. What is the meaning of **vital** as it is used in the passage?
7. What remains after the **impurities** have been removed from water?
8. How would you describe the taking of twenty-minute showers during a drought?
9. Why is water our most precious natural **resource**?
10. What happens when poisonous chemicals **accumulate** in landfills?
11. How would you describe turning off the faucet when brushing one's teeth?
12. How can drinking from most rivers and ponds affect a person's health?
13. How would you describe an order that restricted families to only one gallon of water a day?

14. What is the meaning of **sustain** as it is used in the passage?

15. Has the rain cycle ever stopped since it began?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

To *preserve* something is to keep it from being harmed or used up. To *conserve* something is to use it carefully and without waste. To *preserve* the giant California sequoias means not cutting down a single tree; to *conserve* a forest means to cut down no more trees than can be replaced naturally.

thing *for* another. You never substitute something *with* something else. You do, however, *replace* something *with* something else.

When **substitute** is used as a verb, it is always followed by the preposition *for*. You substitute one