

Word List

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

abated

v. To become weaker; to decrease.

The speaker waited until the applause had **abated** before continuing.

unabated *adj.* Showing no sign of weakening; showing no decrease.
Representative Millet showed **unabated** enthusiasm for campaigning for the senate seat, even though he had been twice defeated for that office.

acknowledged

v. 1. To admit the existence of.

Did the police officer **acknowledge** your right to remain silent?

2. To express recognition or thanks for.

The new Wimbledon singles champion raised her hand to **acknowledge** the cheers of the crowd.
acknowledged *adj.* Commonly accepted or recognized.

Bill James is an **acknowledged** expert on baseball statistics.

agent

n. 1. A person who acts or does business for another.

The author's agent found a company to publish his latest mystery story.

2. Something that brings about a result.

A new principal can be a powerful **agent** for change in a school.

authority

n. 1. The right to give orders, make decisions, or take action.

Only the Congress of the United States has the **authority** to declare war.

2. An expert source of information.

The researcher Jane Goodall is a world **authority** on chimpanzees.

authorities *n.* A group of people who have the right to enforce laws.

The **authorities** closed the restaurant because it did not meet the proper standards for cleanliness.

devastate

v. To ruin or destroy completely.

Farmers in the Midwest fear that lack of rain will **devastate** the wheat crop.

devastating *adj.* Causing destruction.

A **devastating** hurricane destroyed hundreds of homes in southern Florida.

devastation *n.* Great destruction.

The earthquake in Japan created a scene of massive **devastation**.

epidemic

n. The rapid spreading of a disease to many people at one time.

The flu **epidemic** of 1918 killed over twenty million people in the Northern Hemisphere.

epidemic *adj.* Spreading rapidly as a disease over a wide area.

AIDS became **epidemic** in central Africa in the 1980s.

estimate

n. A number that is not exact; a careful guess.

The mechanic's **estimate** for repairing the car is \$1000.

v. (est' to mál) To figure out roughly; to make an approximate calculation.

We **estimate** that it will take us an hour to drive to the airport.

evict

v. To force out of property by taking legal action.

The landlord threatened to **evict** the tenants for not paying the rent.

2

impartial

adj. Not favoring one side more than another; fair.

A judge should be **impartial** in the courtroom.

industrious

adj. Hardworking; not lazy.

The more **industrious** workers in the clothing factory were rewarded with pay raises at the end of the year.

infuriate

v. To make very angry.

Cruelty to animals **infuriates** me.

irrelevant

adj. Having nothing to do with the subject.

The candidate's personal wealth is **irrelevant** to our discussion about his qualifications for the job.

precise

adj. Exact; accurate.

Do you know the **precise** time that your plane arrives?

precision *n.* (pre'si-zh' an) Exactness.

An eye surgeon's work requires great **precision**.

pretend

n. Something fake or false.

Their offer to make us rich turned out to be a **sham**.

sham *adj.* Not genuine; fake.

Although he tried to appear sorry, his **sham** apology fooled no one.

v. To pretend.

We **shammed** illness so we could stay home.

sham

n. A long, slow, and difficult journey.

The hikers were exhausted after their **trek** over the mountain.

v. To travel slowly and with difficulty.

Sam **trekked** ten miles into town after his car broke down.

trek

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) you make that person very angry.

(b) you act in that person's place.

(c) If you infuriate someone,

(d) If you evict someone,

2. (a) something that is not genuine.

(b) a decrease in size or amount.

(c) An estimate is

(d) A sham is

3. (a) a disease that spreads rapidly.

(b) a number that is not exact.

(c) An epidemic is

(d) An agent is

4. (a) that is meant to be helpful.
(b) An irrelevant comment is one
(c) A devastating comment is one
(d) that is off the subject.

5. (a) An agent is
(b) A trek is
(c) something that cannot be explained.
(d) something that produces a result.

6. (a) one who works hard.
(b) An impartial person is
(c) An industrious person is
(d) one who is highly paid.

7. (a) Estimates are
(b) Authorities are
(c) people who enforce the law.
(d) witnesses to an accident.

8. (a) is strongly denied.
(b) is generally accepted.
(c) Something that is acknowledged
(d) Something that is unabated

9. (a) a state of destruction.
(b) Devastation is
(c) Precision is
(d) a sticking or holding together.

10. (a) An authority is
(b) a decrease in force or power.
(c) an expert source of information.
(d) A trek is

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 1.

- The people had no right to be there, so they were removed by force from the house.
- The governor has the right under the law to appoint judges to state courts.
- Those called for jury duty are expected to be fair and not to favor either side.
- The parts of a jigsaw puzzle must be cut with very great care if they are to fit together properly.
- In a special ceremony, the town expressed its gratitude for the heroic act of the firefighter.

6. To succeed in the movie business, you need a good person to represent you.

7. The carpenter will give a rough idea of the cost of building a deck.

8. We waited for the heavy traffic to decrease in volume before we left the city.

9. Yesterday's tornado in eastern Kansas completely ruined a trailer park.

10. We made a long and difficult journey across the desert for three days.

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. Quei may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following can be shammed?
(a) concern
(b) honesty
(c) sleep
(d) interest

2. Which of the following might be estimated?
(a) the cost of repairs
(b) the height of a hill
(c) the population of a town
(d) the number of days in a week

3. Which of the following would be irrelevant in judging a student's writing?
(a) the student's age
(b) the student's name
(c) the width of the margins
(d) the color of the ink used

4. Which of the following might result in someone's being evicted from a house?
(a) failing to pay the rent
(b) using it for illegal purposes
(c) causing damage to it
(d) running a business from it

5. Which of the following can abate?
(a) anger
(b) high winds
(c) silence
(d) applause

6. Which of the following are precise amounts?
(a) 2,145
(b) several hundred
(c) half a dozen
(d) a lot