



Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

admonish
ad măn' ish

v. 1. To warn.

Rescue workers **admonished** us to stay away from the flooding river.

2. To criticize gently.

The coach **admonished** me for missing practice.**admonition** *n.* (ad mə nish' ən) A warning.We remembered our parents' **admonition** to stay close to shore while swimming.**aghast**
ə gəst'*adj.* Struck with horror; shocked.We were **aghast** at the photographs of starving children in Africa.**annihilate**
ə nī' ə lāt

v. To destroy completely; to reduce to utter ruin.

General Custer's army of over 200 men was **annihilated** at the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.**benefactor**
ben' ə fak tər*n.* A person who provides help, especially by giving money.People who donated more than \$100 were listed as **benefactors** of the library.**bestow**
bē stō'

v. To give as an honor; to present as a gift.

An Academy Award is the highest honor Hollywood can **bestow** on a film.**devious**
dē' vē əs*adj.* 1. Having many twists and turns; winding.The climbers followed a **devious** route up the mountain.

2. Sneaky; not frank or honest.

This **devious** scheme was intended to take advantage of vulnerable people.**devoid**
də void'*adj.* Lacking; empty; entirely without.Although he had experienced great misfortune, he was **devoid** of bitterness.**heed**
hēd

v. To pay attention to.

I hope you will **heed** my advice.*n.* Attention; notice.Pay **heed** to the teacher's instructions before you begin the test.**heedful** *adj.* Paying careful attention.**Heedful** of the fog, I drove slowly.**heedless** *adj.* Failing to pay proper attention.They went ahead with their plans, **heedless** of our objections.

mortal
môrt' l

n. A human being, especially as contrasted with a god.
Achilles, a hero in Greek mythology, had a goddess for a mother and a **mortal** for a father.

adj. 1. Of or relating to human beings.
Being **mortal**, he accepted the fact that one day he would die.

2. Causing death; fatal.
India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi received a **mortal** wound delivered by an assassin in 1984.

3. Very severe.
My friend wouldn't go into the reptile house because he has a **mortal** fear of snakes.

muse
myōōz

v. To think about in a quiet, careful way.
I **mused** over whether to sell the house.

pioneer
pī ə nir'

n. A person who goes before others and opens the way for them to follow.
Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two nineteenth-century women, were **pioneers** in the women's rights movement.

v. To open the way for others.
Isadora Duncan **pioneered** modern dance.

plague
plāg

n. 1. A deadly disease that spreads rapidly from person to person.
Those Londoners who could afford it fled to the country to escape the great **plague** of 1665.

2. Anything that causes destruction or suffering.
A **plague** of locusts destroyed the crop.

v. To cause suffering or distress.
After the tryouts, I was **plagued** by doubts that I would make the varsity team.

subside
səb sid'

v. 1. To sink to a lower level.
After the rain stopped, the floodwaters gradually **subsided**.

2. To become quieter or less active.
The baby's sobs gradually **subsided**.

unwitting
un wit' in

adj. Not done on purpose; unintended.
I tried to ignore the **unwitting** insult, but his comment hurt me just the same.

wrath
rath

n. Forceful anger; fury.
It says in the Bible that envy and **wrath** shorten life.

wrathful *adj.* Very angry.
In Homer's story of the Trojan War, a **wrathful** Achilles seeks revenge on the killer of his friend Patroclus.

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 3. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) is one that is caused deliberately. (c) is one that causes death.
(b) A mortal wound (d) An unwitting injury

2. (a) helps with gifts of money. (c) stands in the way of change.
(b) A pioneer is someone who (d) A benefactor is someone who

3. (a) one that is unintended. (c) one given as a warning.
(b) A wrathful insult is (d) An unwitting insult is

4. (a) gradually rises. (c) A subsiding path is one that
(b) twists and turns. (d) A devious path is one that

5. (a) fooled by false promises. (c) To be aghast is to be
(b) shocked. (d) To be annihilated is to be

6. (a) To subside is to (c) To muse is to
(b) do worse than expected. (d) sink to a lower level.

7. (a) To be wrathful is to (c) live forever.
(b) To be mortal is to (d) be very angry.

8. (a) open the way for others. (c) To muse is to
(b) express disagreement. (d) To pioneer is to

9. (a) To admonish someone is to
(b) protect that person. (c) To plague someone is to
(d) criticize that person.
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10. (a) is to fail to pay attention to it. (c) To be heedless of something
(b) is to be well supplied with it. (d) To be devoid of something
-
-

3B

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 3.

1. "Lord, what fools these **human beings** be," says Shakespeare's Puck.
2. Drug-related violence is a **cause of much suffering** that began to spread rapidly in the 1970s.
3. Homestead Air Force Base in Florida was almost **reduced to ruins** in 1992 by Hurricane Andrew.
4. Elizabeth Blackwell was a **person who opened the way for others** in the field of medical education for women.
5. Smokers should **pay close attention to** the warnings on cigarette packages.
6. Avoid doing business with Ed; he is **not honest in his dealings with others**.
7. As far as we know, Mars is **totally lacking in any form** of life.
8. In ancient times, people believed that a volcano's eruption was caused by the **terrible anger** of the gods.
9. Two children are easier to care for than one, he **thought quietly to himself**.
10. We obeyed the park ranger's **instruction that warned us** to be careful with matches while in the woods.

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Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following can **subside**?
(a) an epidemic (c) a storm
(b) the floor (d) flame
2. Which of the following might a **wrathful** person do?
(a) seek revenge (c) make derogatory remarks
(b) apologize (d) speak in a loud voice
3. Which of the following can you **heed**?
(a) advice (c) a warning
(b) a suggestion (d) a gift
4. Which of the following might **plague** a person?
(a) hopes (c) worries
(b) doubts (d) fears
5. Which of the following might make you **aghast**?
(a) seeing a beautiful sunset (c) missing a favorite TV show
(b) hearing of a terrible accident (d) receiving good news
6. Which of the following can be **mortal**?
(a) terror (c) buildings
(b) wounds (d) horses
7. Which of the following could be described as **devious**?
(a) a winding path (c) a person who lies and cheats
(b) an impartial judge (d) a person who lacks authority
8. Which of the following might a **benefactor** do?
(a) pay your college tuition (c) make derogatory remarks about you
(b) support a local theater (d) give you good advice

Many English words come from Latin. We say they have Latin roots.

Read these Latin words and their meanings. Then fill in the blank spaces in the sentences. The vocabulary words are from this or earlier lessons.

facere (to make)

furor (rage)

monere (to warn)

mors (death)

nihil (nothing)

sidere (to settle)

solus (alone)

pars (side)

via (way)

vulnus (a wound)

- To _____ someone is to warn that person. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- _____ is the state of being alone. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To be _____ is to be easily hurt. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To _____ something is to destroy it completely. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- An _____ judge will hear both sides of an argument fairly. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To _____ someone is to make him extremely angry. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- A _____ person is one who is not direct and straightforward. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To _____ is to fall to a lower level. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- A _____ wound is one that causes death. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- A _____ is a person who tries to make things better for others. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

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Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

Pandora's Box



Modern English contains many words and phrases whose origins go back to ancient Greece. One of these phrases is a *Pandora's Box*, which has come to mean "something that produces unexpected problems or difficulties." Take, for example, the nineteenth-century French scientist Marie Curie. She was a **pioneer** in the study of uranium, and it could be said that she opened a Pandora's Box with her research. Her work led to the splitting of the uranium atom and the development of the atomic bomb. This gave the human race, for the first time in history, the power to **annihilate** itself. The expression a Pandora's Box comes from a Greek myth that explains how evil and suffering came into existence in a world that was originally **devoid** of them.

The story starts with Prometheus, whom the ancient Greeks looked upon as a **benefactor** of the human race. They believed that he stole fire from Zeus, the king of the gods, and gave it to human beings. To get revenge, the **wrathful** Zeus punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock where eagles came and devoured his liver. Each night it grew back, and each day it was devoured afresh. Zeus was not satisfied with this, however; he also wanted to punish the people who had received the precious gift of fire, so he came up with a **devious** plan.

Zeus ordered his son Hephaestus, the best craftsman of the gods, to create the first woman. Her name, Pandora, means "all the gifts" because each of the gods **bestowed** a special gift upon her. Aphrodite gave her beauty. Hermes gave her the ability to be crafty. Zeus gave her a box, which he **admonished** her never to open. But he also gave her the gift of curiosity. He knew that she would not **heed** his warning.

Zeus then sent Pandora to live on Earth as a **mortal**. She married and lived happily, untroubled except for one thing. She could not stop glancing at the box that Zeus had given her. That kept her **musings** about what it contained. She was often tempted to lift the lid and peep inside. Then she would remember Zeus's warning and restrain herself. However, her curiosity, far from **subsiding**, increased with every passing day.

Finally, Pandora could stand it no longer. She acted swiftly, so as to give herself no time to think. She picked up the box and opened it. Immediately, all the evils that now exist in the world flew out of Pandora's Box. Greed and envy, hatred and fear, disease and despair; all appeared on Earth for the first time. They began to **plague** humankind. Pandora was **aghast** at what she had done. She quickly slammed the lid shut. Too late! She had been Zeus's **unwitting** helper as he carried out his plan of revenge and proved his power once again.

► Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. What did Prometheus **bestow** on humankind?

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

3. Did Pandora know what she was doing when she helped Zeus carry out his plan?

4. Why would it be incorrect to call Pandora a **benefactor** of humankind?

5. What is the meaning of **devious** as it is used in the passage?

6. What warning did Zeus give Pandora when he presented her with the box?

7. Did Hephaestus obey Zeus's order?

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8. How did Zeus's gift of curiosity affect Pandora?

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

10. Did Zeus show any pity for Prometheus?

11. In what way did Marie Curie take a lead in the world of science?

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

13. According to the myth, who suffered because of Zeus's **wrath**?

14. Why can we say that Marie Curie opened a Pandora's Box?

15. How do you think Madame Curie would have felt if she had known that her research would lead to the atom bomb?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

• The word **benefactor** is formed from two Latin roots, *bene*, which means “good” or “well,” and *facere*, which means “to do; to make.” The Latin word *malus* means “bad” or “evil.” Using your knowledge of Latin roots, can you figure out the meaning of the word *malefactor*?

• The Latin word for “death” is *mortalis*; from it comes our word **mortal**. The antonym of *mortal*, both as an adjective and a noun, is *immortal*. As an adjective, it means “living forever” (According to Greek mythology, the gods and goddesses who lived on Mount Olympus were *immortal*), and “having lasting fame” (No writer can compare to the *immortal* William Shakespeare). As a noun, *immortal* means “a mythical being who will never die” (Athena and the other

immortals of Mount Olympus were sometimes rivals), and “a person having lasting fame” (Jane Austen is one of the *immortals* of English literature).

• **Plague** is now the general term for any widespread and deadly disease; it once referred to a specific disease called “the Plague,” also known as “the Black Death,” which swept through Europe and parts of Asia in the fourteenth century, killing up to three quarters of the population. A red cross on a door was a sign that someone inside the house had the disease. Spread by fleas that had bitten infected rats, it attacked many parts of the body, especially the lungs, and was almost always fatal. It has reappeared at various times over recorded history; the last great outbreak of the disease was in England in 1665.

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