

# Lesson 4

## Word List

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

**acquire**  
ə kwɪr

v. To gain ownership of something; to get by one's own efforts or actions.

Most tourists **acquire** souvenirs from the places they visit.

**acquisition** n. (ak wə zɪʃ ən) Something that is acquired.

We left the store with our shopping bags filled with our **acquisitions**.

**antagonize**  
an tag ə nɪz

v. To make an enemy of; to stir up anger or dislike.

You will **antagonize** your classmates if you make derogatory comments about them.

**competent**  
kəm pə tɛnt

adj. Having the ability to do what is needed.

The mechanic is **competent** to work on the car's brakes.

**competence** n. The ability to do what is needed.

This examination tests the student's **competence** to drive safely.

**comprise**  
kəm prɪz

v. 1. To form; to make up.

Six states **comprise** New England.

2. To consist of or include.

A baseball team **comprises** nine players.

**correspond**  
kɔr ə spænd

v. 1. To match; to be equal to.

The two handwriting samples **correspond** in every way.

2. To exchange letters with another person.

Although the friends hadn't seen each other for several years, they **corresponded** regularly.

**correspondence** n. The act of exchanging letters; the letters that are exchanged.

The **correspondence** of famous people is often published after their death.

**dilapidated**  
dɪ lap ə dæt əd

adj. In poor condition from neglect or age.

The shed was so **dilapidated** that it wasn't worth repairing.

**illustrious**  
ɪl lʊs trē əs

adj. Very famous; outstanding.

V. S. Naipaul, the **illustrious** West Indian writer, received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001.

**incident**  
ɪn sə dɛnt

n. Something that happens in real life or in a story; an event, often of little importance.

My car was struck from behind, but I thought no more about the **incident** until my neck began to hurt.

**inherit**  
ɪn her it

v. 1. To receive something from someone after that person's death.

I **inherited** this house from my grandparents.

2. To receive, as part of one's physical or mental make-up, from one's parents.

The baby **inherited** his mother's red hair.

environment  
excellent  
existence  
grammar  
hypocrisy



**latitude**

lat' ə tōōd

*n.* 1. The distance north or south of the equator, measured in degrees.  
The **latitude** of New Orleans is 30 degrees north.  
2. A region as marked by its distance from the equator.  
Tropical plants cannot survive in northern **latitudes**.  
3. Freedom from strict rules.  
Students in high school are allowed some **latitude** in choosing their courses.

**loath**

lōth

*adj.* Unwilling; reluctant.  
I was **loath** to put my trust in such a devious person.

**maintain**

mān tān'

*v.* 1. To declare something to be true.  
Although the evidence against her is strong, she continues to **maintain** her innocence.  
2. To continue in the same way or condition.  
The walkers try to **maintain** an even pace as they exercise.  
3. To keep in good condition.  
The state of New York **maintains** this highway.

**renovate**

ren' ə vāt

*v.* To make like new again.  
We intend to **renovate** the apartment completely before we move in.  
**renovation** *n.* (ren ə vā' shən) The act of renovating; the thing renovated.  
A group of concerned parents was responsible for the **renovation** of the playground.

**reprimand**

rep' rə mand

*v.* To scold in a harsh or formal manner.  
The manager **reprimanded** us for being late for work.  
*n.* A strong scolding from someone in authority.  
The teacher gave us a **reprimand** for being absent without permission.

**supervise**

sōō' pər vīz

*v.* To direct or manage activities.  
Ms. Agostino will **supervise** the students in the study hall.  
**supervision** *n.* (sōōb pər vīzh' ən) The act of managing or directing.  
A lack of proper **supervision** resulted in yesterday's accident at the playground.  
**supervisor** *n.* A person who manages or directs activities.  
The **supervisor** reminded the worker to wear a hardhat at the construction site.

acquire

antagonize

competent

comprise

correspond

dilapidated

illustrious

incident

inherit

latitude

loath

maintain

renovate

reprimand

supervise

**4A Finding Meanings**

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that corre-  
uses a word from Word List 4. Write each sentenc  
the space provided.

1. (a) something caused by carelessness. (c) A renovation is  
(b) An incident is (d) something made like new again.
- 
2. (a) To supervise someone is to (c) make that person angry.  
(b) To antagonize someone is to (d) pay no heed to that person.



3. (a) receive it after another person's death. (c) To maintain property is to  
(b) allow it to fall into neglect. (d) To inherit property is to
4. (a) keep them in good condition. (c) To comprise several buildings is to  
(b) consist of them. (d) To acquire several buildings is to
5. (a) distance from the equator. (c) Latitude is  
(b) letters exchanged between people. (d) Competence is
6. (a) To be illustrious is to be (c) To be dilapidated is to be  
(b) heavily decorated. (d) in a poor state of repair.
7. (a) something that takes place. (c) A reprimand is  
(b) an unwitting insult or injury. (d) An incident is
8. (a) Correspondence is (c) failure to do what is required.  
(b) letters exchanged between people. (d) Competence is
9. (a) a severe scolding. (c) A supervisor is  
(b) a speech of praise. (d) A reprimand is
10. (a) To acquire a positive attitude (c) is to question its value.  
(b) To maintain a positive attitude (d) is to continue to have it.

## 4B 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 4.

- I was told that I would, **on the death of my mother, become the new owner of the property.**
- In what year did the museum **become the owner of** this painting?
- I was having such a good time that I was **not quite willing** to leave.



4. The child is too young to play outside without **someone watching over him**.
5. A pen and paper **form or make up** this writer's basic equipment.
6. We feel it is important to **write letters to each other** now that we live so far apart.
7. The store owner never doubted the manager's **ability to do the job properly**.
8. Maya Angelou is one of America's most **brilliant and highly respected** poets.
9. Students in that school are given plenty of **freedom from strict rules** but are expected to act responsibly.
10. A crew of sixty workers is needed to **take proper care of** the town's parks during the summer.

## 4C Applying Meanings

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

acquire  
antagonize  
competent  
comprise  
correspond  
dilapidated  
illustrious  
incident  
inherit  
latitude  
loathe  
maintain  
renovate  
reprimand  
supervise

1. Which of the following might be **inherited**?
 

(a) brown eyes	(c) money
(b) bad luck	(d) time
2. Which of the following can be **maintained**?
 

(a) a point of view	(c) a building
(b) a denial	(d) a custom
3. Which of the following might be **supervised**?
 

(a) a work crew	(c) the building of a house
(b) a play group	(d) solitude
4. Which of the following might result in a **reprimand**?
 

(a) behaving selfishly	(c) getting sick
(b) telling a lie	(d) getting an "A" on a test
5. Which of the following could be **renovated**?
 

(a) a house	(c) a pet
(b) a tree	(d) a disease





6. Which of the following could be an **acquisition**?
- (a) intelligence (c) a painting  
(b) old age (d) a quarrel
7. The word **latitude** could be applied to which of the following?
- (a) 45 degrees south (c) North America  
(b) 10 degrees east (d) the north star
8. Which of the following could be **dilapidated**?
- (a) a building (c) a haircut  
(b) a truck (d) an injury

## 4D Word Study

A suffix is a word part that comes at the end of a word. One of the things a suffix can do is change a word from one part of speech to another.

Change each of the verbs below into a noun by changing or adding a suffix: *-ence*, *-er*, *-ion*, *-tion*, or *-ment*. Write the new word on the line. All words are from this or earlier lessons.

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Noun</u>
1. correspond	_____
2. renovate	_____
3. admonish	_____
4. scavenge	_____
5. acquire	_____

Now change the adjectives below into nouns by changing, adding, or removing a suffix. Write the new word on the line. All words are from this or earlier lessons.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Noun</u>
6. precise	_____
7. wrathful	_____
8. competent	_____
9. devastating	_____
10. authentic	_____



## 4E Passage

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

## Mount Vernon

No visit to Washington, D.C., is complete without a trip to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, our nation's **illustrious** first president. It is located just a few miles south of our nation's capital, and its fine views, spacious lawns, shaded walks, and carefully tended gardens make it one of the most popular tourist attractions in the nation. More than a million people a year visit Mount Vernon, where they may pay their respects to the memory of our first president and his wife, the first lady, both of whom are buried there.

Mount Vernon had been in the Washington family for almost a hundred years when George Washington **inherited** the property in 1761. It **comprised** five separate farms as well as the house overlooking the Potomac River in which he lived with his wife and her two children from a former marriage. Because the house was too small for their needs, Washington added rooms and outbuildings. He hired the best workers he could find and **supervised** their work closely; by the time he had finished, Mount Vernon was the fine mansion visitors see today.

Although Washington was **loath** to leave his beautiful home, his duty to his country required him to be absent from Mount Vernon from 1775 until 1783, while he was leading the Continental army in the war against the British. In his absence, a distant cousin, Lund Washington, managed the property for him. We know a great deal about this period in the history of Mount Vernon because the **correspondence** between the two men has survived.

Washington gave his cousin considerable **latitude** in looking after the estate, and Lund was a **competent** manager. However, one **incident** aroused Washington's wrath. Lund wrote to him saying that a British warship had come up the river and that the crew had asked for food. Not wanting to **antagonize** them, Lund had complied with their request. Washington **reprimanded** his cousin and told him that he should have refused "even if they had burnt my house and laid the Plantation in ruins."

In 1789, Washington reluctantly left Mount Vernon once again to serve as the country's first president. He retired from public life after eight years and returned for the last time to his beloved home, where two years later he died. The property remained in the Washington family until 1858, by which time the house was in a sadly **dilapidated** state. In that year, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, a group of private citizens, **acquired** the property. The association carefully **renovated** the house so that it now looks as it did when George Washington lived there. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association has **maintained** it ever since and opens it to the public every day of the year.

acquire  
antagonize  
competent  
comprise  
correspond  
dilapidated  
illustrious  
incident  
inherit  
latitude  
loath  
maintain  
renovate  
reprimand  
supervise



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 **latitude** as it is used in the passage?

2. Who **supervised** the workers at Mount Vernon between 1775 and 1783?

3. Was George Washington eager to leave Mount Vernon in 1789?

4. Why does Washington have a secure place in United States history?

5. Why did George Washington, on the whole, have reason to be satisfied with his cousin's management?

6. Was George Washington at Mount Vernon when the British warship arrived?

7. Was George Washington pleased when his cousin helped the British?

8. What is the meaning of **comprised** as it is used in the passage?

9. How did George Washington know what was going on at Mount Vernon while he was away?

10. Why did Lund give the British what they asked for?



11. What is the meaning of **inherited** as it is used in the passage?

12. Had the Washington family taken good care of Mount Vernon prior to its purchase by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association?

13. What was Mount Vernon in need of in 1858?

14. In what year did George Washington become the owner of Mount Vernon?

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

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

*Inheritance* is a noun related to the word list's first meaning of the verb **inherit**. An *inheritance* is the property received from a person after her or his death. Another noun that relates to the first meaning of *inherit* is *heir*, one who inherits property. *Heredity* is another noun related to the second meaning of *inherit*. *Heredity* is the passing on from parents to children of the things that make up that person, both physically and mentally.

Lines of **latitude** are imaginary lines parallel to and north and south of the equator. Latitudes close to zero degrees are near the equator; latitudes close to

90 degrees are near the poles. Lines of *longitude* run from pole to pole and are measured east and west of Greenwich, England. (The *latitude* of Los Angeles is 34 degrees north; its *longitude* is 118 degrees west.)

The Latin for *new* is *novus*, which forms the root of the verb **renovate**. Other words formed from this root include *novice*, "a person new to an activity" (a tennis *novice*); *novelty*, "something that excites interest because it is new" (a popular *novelty* in the stores this holiday season); and *innovation*, "a new way of doing something" (the latest *innovation* in the automobile industry).

