

Lesson 2

Word List

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

astute
ə stōōt'

adj. Wise in a clever or practical way.
An **astute** shopper compares prices carefully before making a purchase.

authentic
ō then' tīk

adj. Genuine; true.
An authority on old maps declared that the sixteenth-century chart of the Florida Keys is **authentic**.
authenticity *n.* (ō then tis' i tē) The condition of being genuine.
Lawyers questioned the **authenticity** of the signature on the agreement.
authenticate *v.* To prove that something is genuine.
Only an art expert can **authenticate** the painting as one by Rubens.

delicacy
del' i kə sē

n. 1. A choice item of food.
Smoked salmon is a **delicacy**.
2. Great consideration for the feelings of others.
Discussing her mistake will embarrass her unless you handle the matter with **delicacy**.

derogatory
dər rāg' ə tōr ē

adj. Expressing a low opinion; intended to hurt the reputation of a person or thing.
His habit of making **derogatory** comments about his co-workers made him unpopular.

devour
də vour'

v. 1. To eat up hungrily.
The wolf was about to **devour** Little Red Riding Hood when the woodcutter arrived.
2. To take in eagerly with the eyes or ears.
The children **devoured** comic books when they were younger.

figment
fig' mēnt

n. Something that is made up in the mind but that has no connection with reality.
The monster in the closet is a **figment** of the child's imagination.

mythical
mith' i kəl

adj. Imaginary; not real.
Unicorns are **mythical** creatures.

plumage
plūm' ij

n. A bird's feathers.
Parrots have brightly colored **plumage**.

predatory
pred' ə tōr ē

adj. 1. Living by killing and eating other animals.
Crocodiles are **predatory** reptiles.
2. Living by robbing or stealing from others.
Predatory bands of pirates once sailed the Mediterranean seeking victims.
predator *n.* 1. A creature that lives by killing.
A sea eagle is a **predator** that dives for fish.
2. A person who lives by robbing.
These gang members are **predators** who belong in jail.

prior
pri' ə

adj. 1. Coming earlier in time.
I was unable to see you this morning because I had a **prior** appointment.
2. Coming before in order or importance.
The court ruled that the Native Americans had a **prior** claim to the land.

scavenge
skav' ənj

v. To search through or pick over, looking for something usable.
People with metal detectors **scavenge** the beach looking for coins.
scavenger n. 1. Someone who scavenges.
After the fire, **scavengers** looked through the debris, hoping to find something of value.
2. An animal that feeds on dead or decaying matter.
Vultures, hyenas, and other **scavengers** are an important part of nature's clean-up crew.

slaughter
slɔt' ə

v. 1. To kill in order to obtain meat.
The hogs are fattened up before they are **slaughtered**.
2. To kill people or animals in large numbers or in a cruel way.
For centuries, whales were **slaughtered** for their oil and other valuable products.
n. 1. The killing of an animal for food.
The **slaughter** of beef cattle should be carried out as swiftly and painlessly as possible.
2. The act of killing on a large scale or in a cruel way.
Those who drink and drive contribute to the **slaughter** on the nation's highways.

solitude
səl' ə tōd

n. The condition of being alone or at some distance from people.
We enjoyed the **solitude** of a walk on the deserted beach.

ungainly
un' gān' lē

adj. Moving in a clumsy or awkward way.
Walrus, graceful in the water, are **ungainly** creatures on land.

vulnerable
vul' nər ə bəl

adj. Open to attack; easily injured physically or emotionally.
Starving people are more **vulnerable** to disease than those who are well fed.

2A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 2. Write each sentence in the space provided.

B, D

1. (a) To authenticate is to (c) prove to be a fake.
(b) To scavenge is to (d) search for something usable.

2. (a) Plumage is (c) Delicacy is
(b) being cut off from society. (d) a bird's feathers.

3. (a) that isn't real. (c) A mythical creature is one
(b) An astute creature is one (d) that moves awkwardly.

4. (a) A figment is (c) a choice item of food.
(b) A delicacy is (d) an awkward situation.

astute
authentic
delicacy
derogatory
devour
figment
mythical
plumage
predatory
prior
scavenge
slaughter
solitude
ungainly
vulnerable