

OK

## Lesson 12

## Word List

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

**abduct**  
əb dukt'

v. To carry away by force; to kidnap.

Bandits stopped the jeep and **abducted** the driver.**abduction** n. The act or instance of abducting.According to Greek myth, the **abduction** of Helen was the cause of the Trojan War.**abode**  
ə bōd'

n. The place where one lives; home.

My summer **abode** was a small cabin that I shared with two other camp counselors.**abyss**  
ə bis'

n. 1. A deep opening in the earth.

We were afraid to look down as we crossed the **abyss** on a swaying rope bridge.

2. Anything too deep to measure.

The Hubble space telescope was built to probe the **abyss** of space.**arbitrate**  
ər' bi trāt

v. To settle a disagreement between two parties by having a third party make a decision after hearing both sides.

The United Nations will **arbitrate** the border dispute between the two countries.**arbitration** n. (ər bi trā' shən) The act of arbitrating.By agreeing to **arbitration**, management and workers hope to avoid a strike.**attribute**  
ə trib' yoot

v. To think of as coming from or belonging to a particular person or thing.

The painting was wrongly **attributed** to Mary Cassatt, America's foremost Impressionist artist.

n. (ə' tri byoot) A quality or feature associated with a person or thing.

Wisdom is often considered an **attribute** of old age.**capricious**  
kə prish' əs

adj. Likely to change quickly for no obvious reason.

Robert Frost wrote an amusing poem about the **capricious** New England weather.**compromise**  
kəm' prə mīz

v. 1. To settle a disagreement by having each side give up something.

We **compromised** by splitting the difference between the \$2,000 asking price of the car and the \$1,500 offer I made for it.

2. To expose to the possibility of criticism or shame.

The manager will not **compromise** the restaurant's reputation by tolerating poor service to diners.

n. A settlement reached by each side giving up something.

The **compromise** required me to work late on Fridays so that I could have Saturdays off.**devout**  
də vout'

adj. 1. Very religious.

**Devout** Muslims try to make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca.

2. Sincere.

I am a **devout** believer in the healing power of the mind.**distraught**  
di strōt'

adj. Deeply disturbed; very troubled.

The children were **distraught** when their pet rabbit died.

**enlighten**  
en līt' n

v. To inform or instruct; to give knowledge or truth to.

Since we didn't know the store's policy for returning merchandise, we asked customer service to **enlighten** us.

**enlightened** *adj.* Free from ignorance or prejudice.

This day-care center takes an **enlightened** approach to early childhood education.

**incline**  
in klīn'

v. 1. To slope or lean.

Instead of being vertical, the post **inclines** slightly to the left.

2. To be likely to; to have a fondness for.

I am **inclined** to talk too much.

3. To bend or bow (the head).

I **inclined** my head so that the barber could trim the back of my neck.

*n.* (in' klīn) A sloping surface.

The summer house lay at the top of a grassy **incline**.

**intervene**  
in tər vĕn'

v. To enter in order to help or settle something.

The playground supervisor **intervened** when the children couldn't agree about whose turn it was.

**intervention** *n.* (in tər vən' shən) The act or instance of intervening.

The talk show host's timely **intervention** kept the discussion from becoming too heated.

**necessity**  
nə ses' ə tē

*n.* 1. Anything that cannot be done without or that is greatly needed.

Insect repellent is a **necessity** when camping.

2. The condition of being needed.

I don't see the **necessity** for taking separate cars.

**orbit**  
ōr' bit

*n.* The path taken by an object around a heavenly body such as a star, planet, or moon.

The moon's **orbit** around the earth takes just over 27 days.

v. To put into or be in orbit.

In 1961, the Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to **orbit** the earth.

**sacred**  
sā' krəd

*adj.* 1. Holy; having to do with religion.

The Wailing Wall in Jerusalem is **sacred** to the Jewish people.

2. Worthy of being given the greatest honor or respect.

The engaged couple asserted that they consider marriage vows to be **sacred**.

## 12A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 12. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) a bowing of the head. (c) An attribute is  
(b) a quality associated with a person. (d) A compromise is

2. (a) A necessity is (c) a sloping surface.  
(b) a sudden change of mind. (d) An incline is

3. (a) expose to criticism. (c) To abduct is to  
(b) To compromise is to (d) keep from danger.
4. (a) An abyss is (c) the path taken by an object around a heavenly body.  
(b) An orbit is (d) the distance of a planet from the sun.
5. (a) one who acts suddenly on a whim. (c) A distraught person is  
(b) one who is deeply disturbed. (d) A devout person is
6. (a) A capricious promise is one (c) made with great seriousness.  
(b) made unwillingly. (d) A sacred promise is one
7. (a) To enlighten someone is to (c) To abduct someone is to  
(b) offer protection to that person. (d) carry off that person by force.
8. (a) anything that is considered necessary. (c) An abyss is  
(b) anything that is too deep to measure. (d) An abode is
9. (a) the condition of being needed. (c) Arbitration is  
(b) a promise to pay. (d) Necessity is
10. (a) To be enlightened about something (c) is to avoid it completely.  
(b) To intervene in something (d) is to involve oneself in it.
11. (a) To be inclined to something is (c) to find a use for it.  
(b) To arbitrate something is (d) to have a fondness for it.

abduct

abode

abyss

arbitrate

attribute

capricious

compromise

devout

distraught

enlighten

incline

intervene

necessity

orbit

sacred

## 12B 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 12.

1. In order to prevent a strike, the union members decided to **settle for less than they had hoped for**, and so they accepted a smaller pay increase.
2. Nimbleness is one of the **qualities that is typical** of Olympic gymnasts.
3. Each morning, the chanting of the **very religious** worshippers drifted from the temple.
4. He greeted them by saying, "Welcome to my new **residence, the place that I call home.**"
5. The space shuttle **travels in a path around** the earth every ninety minutes.
6. It's difficult to maintain a close friendship with someone who is so **quick to change from one moment to the next for no obvious reason.**
7. Rather than go to court, the two sides agreed to take the matter to **a third party who would try to settle their differences.**
8. Television should **provide information to** viewers as well as entertain them.
9. I **slightly bent** my body toward the speaker in order to hear what she was saying.

## 12C Applying Meanings

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

1. Which of the following can be **arbitrated**?
 

(a) quarrels	(c) differences
(b) nomads	(d) casualties
2. Which of the following can be **capricious**?
 

(a) an action	(c) the weather
(b) a sphere	(d) a garden
3. Which of the following might be considered a **compromise**?
 

(a) settling for less	(c) antagonizing the other party
(b) demanding more	(d) accepting an impartial judgment

4. Which of the following can be **sacred**?
 

(a) places	(c) whims
(b) books	(d) objects
  
5. Which of the following are **necessities**?
 

(a) food	(c) medical care
(b) shelter	(d) entertainment
  
6. Which of the following can **enlighten** people?
 

(a) books	(c) movies
(b) radio	(d) speeches
  
7. Which of the following can be an **abode**?
 

(a) a hovel	(c) a bicycle
(b) a palace	(d) a boat
  
8. Which of the following travel in **orbit**?
 

(a) the earth	(c) Venus
(b) a river	(d) the moon

## 12D Word Study

Change each of the words below into a different part of speech by adding, removing, or changing a suffix. Write the new word on the line. All words are from this lesson or previous lessons.

### Verb

1. disrupt

### Adjective

\_\_\_\_\_

2. gratify

\_\_\_\_\_

3. dumbfound

\_\_\_\_\_

4. assert

\_\_\_\_\_

5. detach

\_\_\_\_\_

### Noun

### Adjective

6. pluck

\_\_\_\_\_

7. nomad

\_\_\_\_\_

8. sphere

\_\_\_\_\_

9. privilege

\_\_\_\_\_

10. congestion

\_\_\_\_\_

abduct

abode

abyss

arbitrate

attribute

capricious

compromise

devout

distraught

enlighten

incline

intervene

necessity

orbit

sacred

Verb	Noun
11. disrupt	_____
12. aspire	_____
13. enroll	_____
14. impede	_____
15. intimidate	_____

## 12E Passage

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

### How the Seasons Changed

We know that the seasons occur because the earth, as it travels in its yearly **orbit** around the sun, has its northern hemisphere tilted away from the sun during northern winters and toward it during northern summers. The ancient Greeks, who were less **enlightened** in matters of astronomy than we are today, had a different explanation. It was expressed in one of their myths about the goddess Demeter and her daughter Persephone.

The ancient Greeks believed that the gods **intervened** frequently in human affairs and often did so in a **capricious** manner, for they were **inclined** to look upon mortals as mere playthings. Demeter, whose name means "earth mother," was different. She was a benevolent goddess who had given humans the gift of agriculture, which provided them with most of the **necessities** of life. The island of Sicily was especially **sacred** to the ancient Greeks because they believed it was there that Demeter had first given corn to humans. Women, who tilled the fields and planted the crops while the men hunted, were among her most **devout** followers.

According to the myth, Persephone was **abducted** by Hades, the god of the underworld, while she was in a field with her friends picking flowers. He suddenly rose from an **abyss** that he created at her feet. He then carried Persephone off to his home, the **abode** of the dead, where he made her his wife. **Distraught** over the loss of her daughter, Demeter searched for her everywhere. When at last she discovered what had happened, Demeter demanded that Persephone be returned to her. Hades refused. He argued that Persephone had eaten a pomegranate while in the underworld, and anyone who had taken food there could never leave.

Unable to agree on a solution to the problem, Demeter and Hades called upon Zeus, the ruler of the gods, to **arbitrate** the dispute. Demeter threatened to make the earth barren unless her daughter was restored to her. Not wanting to lose the humans who worshipped him, Zeus worked out a **compromise**. Persephone would live part of each year in the underworld with Hades and the rest of the year she would spend on earth with her mother.

And so, we see, it is to Demeter's moods that the ancient Greeks **attributed** the changing of the seasons. During the summer months when the land in Greece is scorched by the hot southern sun and crops wither in the heat, Persephone was thought to be in the underworld with Hades. During the mild, moist months from fall to spring when the earth is fruitful, she was living on earth with her mother.

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. Were the ancient Greek gods remote from human affairs?

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2. Why was it difficult to predict how the gods might behave?

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3. What do we know to be the cause of the change of seasons?

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4. What is the meaning of **inclined** as it is used in the passage?

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5. Was Demeter indifferent to the loss of her daughter?

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6. Did Persephone go willingly with Hades to the underworld?

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7. Why was Zeus's **arbitration** of the dispute successful?

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

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

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10. Why would the Greeks have built many temples on the island of Sicily?

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11. Why would the ancient Greeks have worshipped Demeter?

12. Why must the region ruled by Hades have been a very gloomy place?

13. Why do we understand the change of seasons better than the ancient Greeks did?

14. Does the earth go around the sun or does the sun go around the earth?

15. What are some of the **necessities** of life?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

**Abys** comes from the Greek *bussos*, which means "bottom," combined with the prefix *a-*, which means "without." The adjective formed from it is *abysmal*, which means "too deep or too great to be measured." Because this adjective is often used to modify negative qualities (*abysmal* ignorance, *abysmal* poverty), it has acquired a secondary meaning, "very bad" or "wretched." (The choir's *abysmal* performance was the result of inadequate preparation.)

The adjective **distraught** is formed from the Latin verb *trahere*, "to draw" or "pull," combined

with the prefix *dis-*, "apart." To be *distraught* is to be so agitated or upset that one's attention is likely to be drawn away from or pulled apart from whatever might otherwise engage it. The verb *distract* is formed in the same way. To be *distracted* is to have one's attention drawn away from whatever ought to engage it. (The band playing in the street outside *distracted* me from my studies.) A person who is *distraught* experiences strong emotion; this is not necessarily the case with a person who is *distracted*.