

Lesson 16

OK

Word List

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

bounty

boun' tē

n. 1. A payment made as a reward, especially one made by the authorities.

The town offered a \$25 **bounty** for each predatory animal that was killed.

2. That which is given freely, by nature or a generous person.

The people of Nova Scotia lived off the **bounty** of the sea.

bountiful *adj.* (boun' ti fəl) Plentiful.

Farmers attributed the **bountiful** harvest to adequate rainfall throughout the growing season.

camouflage

kam' ə flāzh

n. 1. The hiding of something as a result of its appearance.

The green color of a praying mantis is its natural means of **camouflage**.

2. Something used as a cover or disguise.

Netting covered with leafy branches provided **camouflage** for the trucks.

v. To hide or conceal, especially by disguising the appearance of.

Octopuses **camouflage** themselves by changing color to match their background.

ebb

eb

v. 1. To recede, fall back, or pull away from.

The rocks near the shore were exposed as the tide **ebbed**.

2. To fall to a lower level or weaker state; to dwindle.

The patient's strength had **ebbed** to the point where getting out of bed was an effort.

n. The passing to a lower level or weaker state.

Just when the shipwrecked sailors' hopes of rescue were at their lowest **ebb**, they saw a ship approaching the island.

forage

fōr' ij

v. To search for food or supplies.

We **foraged** in the forest for firewood.

n. Food such as hay or grain for farm animals.

I supplement the horses' **forage** with carrots and apples.

harass

hə ras'

v. 1. To trouble or annoy by attacking repeatedly.

Swarms of mosquitoes **harassed** us as we left the tent.

2. To cause to become worried or weary.

The store owners were **harassed** by the rapid increase in shoplifting.

insulate

in' sə lāt

v. To cover with a material that keeps electricity, heat, or sound from escaping.

The builder used fiberglass to **insulate** the walls.

insulation *n.* Material that is used to insulate.

Their down provides geese with **insulation** against the cold.

lethargic

lə thār' jik

adj. Slow moving; sleepy or tired.

Extreme heat often makes people **lethargic**.

lethargy *n.* (leth' ər jē) A state of laziness, tiredness, or of not caring.

Despite repeated pep talks from the coach, a **lethargy** had settled over the team.

maneuver
məˈnoʊ.vər

n. 1. A planned military movement.

A frontal attack on a well-defended position is not a **maneuver** I would recommend.

2. A skillful move or clever trick.

Sacrificing her bishop early in the chess game turned out to be an effective **maneuver**.

v. 1. To perform military movements with.

General Lee **maneuvered** his forces so skillfully that the outcome of the battle was never in doubt.

2. To move or manage in a skillful way.

The tugboats **maneuvered** the ship into position alongside the dock.

mottled
mɑtˈəld

adj. Marked with different colored patches or blotches.

The granite had a **mottled** pink and gray appearance.

murky
mɜrki

adj. Dark; gloomy.

I gazed over the side of the boat into the **murky** depths of the harbor.

proximity
prɑkˈsɪm.ə.ti

n. The state of being close or next to; nearness.

The lawyers looked for an office with **proximity** to the courthouse.

replenish
riˈplɛn.ɪʃ

v. To fill up again.

We **replenished** our water bottles at a little stream.

sleek
sli:k

adj. 1. Smooth and glossy.

The dog's coat was **sleek** from daily brushing.

2. Having slender, graceful lines.

The **sleek** ocean liner was a beautiful sight.

wary
weɪəri

adj. On one's guard; watchful; suspicious.

She advised me to be **wary** of the advertisement's claims.

wean
wi:n

v. 1. To cause to stop depending on a mother's milk for nourishment.

Puppies are **weaned** at six weeks.

2. To detach from something one has grown accustomed to.

The cafeteria menu replaced doughnuts with a medley of fruits in an attempt to **wean** students away from sweets.

16A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 16. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) it is clear and straightforward. (c) If something is mottled,
(b) If something is murky, (d) it is not very clear.

2. (a) bring them up to a needed level. (c) save them for future use.
(b) To camouflage supplies is to (d) To replenish supplies is to

3. (a) A mottled coat is one
(b) with blotches of different colors. (c) thick enough to keep out the cold.
(d) A sleek coat is one
4. (a) Camouflage is
(b) the act of concealment. (c) a state of inactivity.
(d) Insulation is
5. (a) A wary child is one who
(b) A lethargic child is one who (c) is lacking in self-confidence.
(d) is watchful and suspicious.
6. (a) Forage is used to
(b) replace what has been used up. (c) keep heat from escaping.
(d) Insulation is used to
7. (a) slender and graceful.
(b) A lethargic animal is one that is (c) A sleek animal is one that is
(d) obedient and easily trained.
8. (a) Proximity is
(b) Bounty is (c) that which is given freely.
(d) that which has been lost.
9. (a) To maneuver is to
(b) recede. (c) pass the time aimlessly.
(d) To ebb is to
10. (a) quickness of movement.
(b) Forage is (c) grass or grain that farm animals eat.
(d) Proximity is

16B 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 16.

- In order to save energy, the hot-water tank had been **covered with a material that kept heat from escaping**.
- The baby was **stopped from depending on its mother's milk** at six months.
- My **slow-moving and sleepy** condition is caused by the medicine I'm taking for my flu.

4. Siamese cats have **smooth and glossy** coats.
5. The **planned military movement** was carried out promptly and swiftly.
6. The landlord began to **do annoying things to make trouble for** me when I refused to move out.
7. **How close it is** to public transportation can be an important factor in choosing a home.
8. After three days, the floodwaters started to **sink to a low level**.
9. Raccoons like to go **searching for something to eat** in the garbage cans.
10. The troops in the jungle **disguised the appearance of** themselves by wearing jackets with splotches of brown and green colors.

16C Applying Meanings

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

bounty
 camouflage
 ebb
 forage
 harass
 insulate
 lethargic
 maneuver
 mottled
 murky
 proximity
 replenish
 sleek
 wary
 wean

1. Which places are in **proximity** to the United States?

(a) Mexico	(c) Turkey
(b) Tibet	(d) Canada
2. Which of the following could be **replenished**?

(a) a dwindling supply	(c) an emptied glass
(b) water bottles	(d) hunger
3. Which of the following are signs of **lethargy**?

(a) an exuberant manner	(c) frequent naps
(b) daydreaming	(d) strenuous exercise
4. On which of the following might there be a **bounty**?

(a) an outlaw	(c) a pet rabbit
(b) a mythical animal	(d) a rattlesnake
5. Which of the following might be used to **camouflage** a car?

(a) leafy branches	(c) green and brown paint
(b) tinted windows	(d) whitewall tires

6. Which of the following can **ebb**?
- (a) the tide (c) floodwaters
(b) a person's hopes (d) interest in a project
7. Which of the following animals could be called **sleek**?
- (a) a dolphin (c) a turtle
(b) a greyhound (d) a camel
8. Which of the following can be **maneuvered**?
- (a) test results (c) a boat
(b) a spacecraft (d) an army

16D Word Study

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

1. wary	bountiful	eerie	trusting	S	A
2. murky	mottled	clear	aware	S	A
3. scanty	sleek	bountiful	cloudy	S	A
4. proximity	disguise	camouflage	movement	S	A
5. wavy	blotchy	mottled	lethargic	S	A
6. annoy	ebb	harass	arrange	S	A
7. energetic	sleek	lethargic	unsure	S	A
8. forage	rise	ebb	zest	S	A
9. replenish	wean	detach	consume	S	A
10. movement	insulation	maneuver	reaction	S	A

16E Passage

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

Harbor Seals

Because they live in close **proximity** to the shore, harbor seals are a familiar sight along the New England coast. You may have to look closely to see them because their coloring provides them with a good **camouflage**; their gray and black **mottled** coats are hard to see against the seaweed-covered rocks on which they spend much of their time. During the winter months, they inhabit the waters around Cape Cod and along the Massachusetts shoreline. Their dense fur and thick layer of blubber keep them so well **insulated** that in summer they seek the colder waters of Maine and the Atlantic provinces of Canada.

Harbor seals are equally at home on land and in the water. As the tide **ebbs**, they climb onto rocks along the shoreline, returning to the water at high tide to **forage** for crabs, fish, and squid. They may seem **lethargic** as they lie basking in the sun, but actually they are **replenishing** their blood supply with fresh oxygen. Whether hunting for food or escaping from sharks and killer whales, harbor seals burn up oxygen rapidly when they are in the water.

Because of their **sleek** bodies and powerful rear flippers, harbor seals can swim up to fifteen miles an hour. They can also **maneuver** swiftly, using their front flippers to brake and steer. Their excellent eyesight is necessary for survival because they must watch for predators in the **murky** New England waters. Healthy harbor seals that stay out of harm's way can live for thirty years.

An adult harbor seal weighs over 200 pounds and eats up to twenty pounds of fish a day. This makes the seals unpopular with those who fish for a living. In fact, seals were so unpopular in the 1800s that the state of Maine offered a **bounty** of five dollars for every harbor seal killed. Today, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 makes harbor seals a protected species, and it is against the law to kill, capture, or **harass** them in any way.

Female harbor seals give birth in late May and early June. Newborn pups weigh about twenty pounds and feed on their mother's milk until they are **weaned** at six to eight weeks. Within hours of being born, they are able to swim and are completely at home in the water. Young seals stay close to their mothers, who keep a **wary** eye on them until they are able to take care of themselves.

Some seals who ran into problems can be seen by visitors to the New England Aquarium in Boston. Sick or injured seals that could not survive in the wild are brought there for medical treatment and are kept in a holding tank outside the building. Once restored to health, the harbor seals are released into the ocean to enjoy its limitless freedom but also to face whatever dangers lurk there.

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).

bounty
camouflage
ebb
forage
harass
insulate
lethargic
maneuver
mottled
murky
proximity
replenish
sleek
wary
wean

1. Why are harbor seals unlikely to be spotted in midocean?

2. What happens to the tide when it reaches the high-water mark?

3. Are harbor seals **lethargic** in the water?
4. Which single word describes both the body shape and coat of the harbor seal?
5. What is the meaning of **camouflage** as it is used in the passage?
6. Why do you need sharp eyes to see harbor seals basking on the rocks?
7. What is the meaning of **bounty** as it is used in the passage?
8. Why are harbor seals sometimes difficult to spot in the water?
9. Why do harbor seals spend so much time lying in the sun?
10. How does the passage show that seals are good mothers?
11. Why is it difficult for predators to catch harbor seals?
12. What is the purpose of the harbor seal's thick layer of blubber?
13. How do mature harbor seals obtain the nourishment they need?

14. How does the law protect harbor seals?

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

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Camouflage is a French military term that has entered English while retaining its original French spelling and pronunciation.

In some situations, *ebb* and *flow* are antonyms. For example, we speak of the ebb and flow or falling and rising of the tide. (The science teacher explained that

the tide *ebbs* and *flows* twice approximately every twenty-four hours.)

Harass is sometimes pronounced *ha 'rass* and sometimes *'har ess*. While both pronunciations are correct, the second is considered preferable by many of the best dictionaries.