

# Lesson 19

## Word List

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

### adverse

əd vɜːrs

*adj.* 1. Working against; serving to oppose.

The response to the proposed parking ban was so **adverse** that the city council dropped the idea.

2. Harmful; unfavorable.

Some people have an **adverse** reaction to aspirin.

### aloof

ə ˈloʊf

*adj.* Remote or distant, usually by choice; showing no interest.

His **aloof** manner kept us from becoming close friends.

*adv.* In an aloof manner.

Although he sat with the group, he stayed **aloof** from the discussion they were having.

### alternative

əl tɜːrˈneɪtɪv

*adj.* Allowing a choice between two or more things.

There is an **alternative** route you could take to get to town, but it's a bit longer.

*n.* 1. A choice between two or more things.

Your **alternatives** are to come with us or stay home.

2. Any one of the things that can be chosen.

I chose the second **alternative** and stayed home.

### canine

kɑːˈniːn

*adj.* Of, or relating to, dogs or related animals.

Wolves, foxes, dogs, jackals, and coyotes are members of the **canine** family.

*n.* A member of the canine family.

I take my Old English sheepdog to a groomer who specializes in large **canines**.

### compulsory

kəmˈpʊlˈsɔːri

*adj.* Required by law or a firm rule.

Training is **compulsory** for all lifeguards.

### consecutive

kənˈsekˈyʊːtɪv

*adj.* Following one after another in order.

It rained for five **consecutive** days last week.

### desolate

desˈələt

*adj.* 1. Deserted; lonely; without signs of life.

There was not even a gas station on the **desolate** stretch of highway.

2. Filled with sorrow.

The children were **desolate** when the kitten got lost in the woods.

### dispatch

dɪˈspætʃ

*v.* 1. To send on specific business.

The senator **dispatched** an aide to meet with reporters.

2. To finish or complete promptly.

The major **dispatched** the entire plate of oysters before we had tucked in our napkins.

3. To kill quickly.

The rat was **dispatched** with a single blow.

*n.* (disˈpætʃ) 1. Speed in movement or performance.

You must act with **dispatch** if you hope to settle the matter by noon tomorrow.

2. A written message sent quickly.

A motorcyclist carried the **dispatches** to the captain.

**distinction**

di stɪŋk' shən

*n.* 1. A recognition of the way things differ.The medical-insurance providers make a **distinction** between temporary and permanent employees.

2. Special honor or regard.

In 2000, the track star Marion Jones had the **distinction** of becoming the first woman to win five medals at one Olympics.

3. Excellence of performance or ability.

Sarah served as class president with **distinction**.**endure**

en dʊr'

*v.* 1. To put up with; to bear.The pioneers who headed west had to **endure** incredible hardship along the way.

2. To go on for a long time; to last.

Despite occasional quarrels, my grandparents' marriage **endured** for over fifty years.**endurance** *n.* The ability to put up with hardship; the quality of putting up with hardship.There is no better test of a runner's **endurance** than the marathon.**fluctuate**

flʊk' chōō āt

*v.* To rise and fall; to keep changing.The supply of fresh vegetables **fluctuates** with the seasons.**fluctuation** *n.* A rising and falling movement.In New England, wide temperature **fluctuations** are to be expected in October.**grueling**

grōō' əl iŋ

*adj.* Tiring; exhausting.Mt. Washington is a **grueling** climb for most hikers.**maul**

mōl

*v.* To handle roughly so as to cause injury.We chased the cat away before it could **maul** the mouse it had caught.**participate**

pār tis' ə pāt

*v.* To take part in.The entire class **participated** in the ticket sale for the school musical.**participant** *n.* (pār tis' ə pənt) One who takes part in.All the **participants** in the Thanksgiving Day parade must be in place by 11:00 a.m.**robust**

rō bust'

*adj.* Strong and vigorous.My grandfather is in **robust** health for an eighty-year-old.**19A Finding Meanings**

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 19. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) that is difficult and exhausting. (c) that requires much preparation.  
 (b) An alternative exercise is one (d) A grueling exercise is one

2. (a) Distinction is (c) the ability to put up with hardship.  
 (b) Endurance is (d) the ability to understand.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3. (a) A desolate road is<br>(b) An alternative road is               | (c) one that is presented as a choice.<br>(d) one that is very windy. |
| 4. (a) show harm done.<br>(b) Fluctuating results                     | (c) Adverse results<br>(d) follow one another in proper order.        |
| 5. (a) A desolate person is one who<br>(b) A robust person is one who | (c) is in poor health.<br>(d) is filled with sorrow.                  |
| 6. (a) To participate is to<br>(b) move up and down.                  | (c) act without thinking.<br>(d) To fluctuate is to                   |
| 7. (a) A dispatch is<br>(b) a possible course of action.              | (c) a quickly sent message.<br>(d) A distinction is                   |
| 8. (a) Consecutive tests<br>(b) fail to show a definite result.       | (c) Compulsory tests<br>(d) follow one another without a break.       |
| 9. (a) a member of the dog family.<br>(b) A canine is                 | (c) an injury caused by a bite or scratch.<br>(d) A participant is    |
| 10. (a) An aloof person is one who<br>(b) A robust person is one who  | (c) stands apart from the rest.<br>(d) is without hope.               |

## 19B 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 19.

- The woods are dark and **without a sign of life**.
- Only persons who are extremely **strong and vigorous** should do these aerobic exercises.
- Were you one of the **ones taking part** in the 100-meter dash?

4. Wearing seat belts is **required by law** in many states.
5. The trainer was rushed to the hospital when the tiger **attacked him and caused serious injuries to** his left arm and shoulder.
6. The judge **quickly put an end to** the case with an abrupt "These charges should never have been filed."
7. I walked home because the only **other choice open to me** was to wait two hours for the next bus.
8. Did they make any **attempt to show the difference** between what is real and what is imaginary?
9. We learned to **put up with** the long, cold winter season after we moved to Alaska.
10. The reviews were so **negative and damaging** that the play closed in a week.

## 19C Applying Meanings

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

adverse  
aloof  
alternative  
canine  
compulsory  
consecutive  
desolate  
dispatch  
distinction  
endure  
fluctuate  
grueling  
maul  
participate  
robust

1. Which of the following belongs to the **canine** family?
 

(a) a wolf	(c) a poodle
(b) a puppy	(d) a hound
2. In which of the following can anyone **participate**?
 

(a) major league baseball	(c) July 4th celebrations
(b) a recycling program	(d) a fund-raising drive
3. Which of the following might show **fluctuations**?
 

(a) the price of gasoline	(c) the temperature at the South Pole
(b) the demand for oil	(d) the distance from Seattle to Miami
4. Which of the following run **consecutively**?
 

(a) 1999, 2000, 2001	(c) May, June, July
(b) 9, 11, 12, 10	(d) Monday, Wednesday, Friday
5. Which of the following might be described as **desolate**?
 

(a) a deserted village	(c) a solitary person
(b) a congested highway	(d) an evicted family

6. Which of the following might be a **grueling** activity?
- (a) running a marathon (c) watching a movie  
 (b) long-distance swimming (d) reading a book
7. Which of the following would be described as **compulsory** in the United States?
- (a) voting in elections (c) eating balanced meals  
 (b) exercising regularly (d) paying any taxes owed
8. Which of the following could be **dispatched**?
- (a) a letter (c) a messenger  
 (b) a task (d) a predatory animal

## 19D 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. feeble	desolate	beneficial	robust	S	A
2. dispatch	caress	maul	decide	S	A
3. endure	invent	participate	last	S	A
4. excellence	alternative	change	distinction	S	A
5. fluctuation	dispatch	hardiness	speed	S	A
6. joy	wisdom	desolation	fluctuation	S	A
7. friendly	grueling	afraid	aloof	S	A
8. compulsory	advanced	adverse	favorable	S	A
9. option	participant	alternative	hardship	S	A
10. arduous	delicious	grueling	robust	S	A

## 19E Passage

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

## The Ultimate Test

Most sports have separate divisions for men and women. No such **distinction** exists between male and female **participants** in the Iditarod, a **grueling** race of sixty or more dogsleds across 1,157 miles from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. Probably its most famous competitor is Susan Butcher, who won the event for the third **consecutive** year in 1988, and who—despite the most **adverse** weather conditions in the history of the race—went on to win it for a fourth time in 1990. Butcher considers the Iditarod to be the ultimate test of **endurance** for both animals and humans.

The race, which extends over some of the most **desolate** trails on earth, lasts up to fourteen days, and the competitors, called “mushers,” get little sleep during this time. A **compulsory** twenty-four-hour stopover at the checkpoint of their choice gives them a brief respite, but even the most **robust** have to fight a constant battle with fatigue during the race’s final days.

Unpredictable weather conditions are another hazard. Temperatures can **fluctuate** between 50 degrees below zero and 40 degrees above. Snowstorms are not uncommon, with icy winds reaching speeds of 140 miles an hour. In the 1984 race, a section of the overland route was closed because strong winds had blown away the snow covering. Butcher and her dogs took an **alternative** sea route over the ice-covered Norton Sound. The ice gave way, and she and her dog team plunged into the frigid water. Led by Granite, her lead dog, they scrambled for shore and went on with the race. Butcher stayed warm by running alongside her sled, and that year she came in second.

Wild animals are another of the many dangers mushers face. In the 1985 race, Butcher’s dog team was attacked by a starving moose that probably thought her dogs were a pack of wolves. Having to protect her dogs and herself, she fought off the enraged moose with an ax until another musher, who was armed with a gun, pulled up behind her and quickly **dispatched** the moose. Two of her dogs were killed and thirteen others were badly **mauled** in the attack. That was one year she did not finish.

Born in 1954, Butcher has loved dogs since her youth. In 1975, she moved from her native Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Eureka, Alaska, where she now breeds and trains dogs at her Trail Breaker Kennels. As many as 150 dogs are there at any one time. She says that they are all her pets and have the run of her home, although of course not all at once. Butcher is somewhat **aloof** by nature, more at ease with her dogs than she is with people. She believes that the secret of her success is the strong bond she forms with her **canine** companions from the time they are born.

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 does the phrase “**adverse** weather conditions” suggest?

2. Do temperatures generally remain steady during the course of a race?

adverse  
aloof  
alternative  
canine  
compulsory  
consecutive  
desolate  
dispatch  
distinction  
endure  
fluctuate  
grueling  
maul  
participate  
robust

3. What are two qualities needed for success in such a **grueling** event?
4. What is the meaning of **desolate** as it is used in the passage?
5. What do the dogsled teams do if the route ahead has no snow?
6. Is the twenty-four-hour stopover voluntary?
7. What is the meaning of **dispatched** as it is used in the passage?
8. Is fatigue a problem during the race's final days?
9. How many of Butcher's dogs were injured when the moose attacked?
10. Why do you think the moose mistook Butcher's dogs for wolves?
11. What does it mean to say that Butcher won for the third **consecutive** year in 1988?
12. Why might the start of the race be particularly hectic?
13. How is the Iditarod different from most athletic contests?

14. Why do you think so many people—like Butcher—respond to the challenge of the Iditarod?

15. Why might Butcher not enjoy going to parties?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

**Adverse** should not be confused with *averse*, which means “having an active and strong dislike.” If a person has a serious heart condition, strenuous exercise might have an *adverse* effect on that person’s health; such a person might, therefore, be *averse* to such exercise.

Don’t confuse **alternative** (the noun or the adjective) with *alternate*, the verb meaning “to happen by turns” or “to take turns.” (Boys and girls *alternate* in using the swimming pool.) *Alternate* is also an adjective, meaning “happening by turns” (The wall was painted in *alternate* stripes of red and white) and “every other” (We take turns driving the children on *alternate* days). Finally, *alternate* is a noun meaning “a person chosen to take the place of another.”

(If you cannot attend the meeting, you must name an *alternate*.)

**Canine** comes from the Latin word for *dog*, which is *canis*.

Latin names of other animals provide us with a number of words having to do with animals or with qualities associated with them. Among them are the following: *Apis*, “bee,” gives us *apiary*, a collection of hives where bees are kept for their honey. *Avis*, “bird,” gives us *aviary*, a large, caged enclosure where birds are kept, and *aviation*, which is the science of airplanes and flying. *Asinus*, “donkey,” gives us *asinine*, which means “like a donkey” and hence, “stupid” or “silly” because of the belief that donkeys are stupid animals.