

Lesson 20 DK

Word List

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

apathy

ap' ə thē

n. A lack of interest or concern.

The low turnout in local elections is the result of the **apathy** of the citizens.

apathetic *adj.* (ap ə thət' ik) Unconcerned; uninterested.

Some teenagers remain **apathetic** about politics until they can vote.

badger

baj' ə r

v. To keep bothering.

Reporters **badgered** the mayor to provide details of the plan for the new library.

n. A strongly built, burrowing mammal common in many northern parts of the world.

The European **badger** weighs up to thirty pounds and is somewhat larger than its North American counterpart.

compel

kəm pel'

v. To force or require to do something.

A strong sense of duty **compels** firefighters to risk their lives.

delude

də lōōd'

v. To mislead; to deceive.

Despite negative messages from the polls, the candidate **deluded** himself into thinking he could win.

delusion *n.* (də lōōv zhən) A false or mistaken belief.

His belief that he is Napoleon is a **delusion**.

deplore

dē plōr'

v. 1. To feel or express sorrow or regret.

My father **deplored** the fact that he hadn't spent more time with his children when they were young.

2. To disapprove of strongly.

Upper levels of management **deplored** the loss of middle-management jobs as the corporation down-sized.

deplorable *adj.* Very bad; wretched.

Living conditions in the Warsaw ghetto were **deplorable**.

derelict

der' ə likt

adj. 1. Dilapidated and abandoned.

The **derelict** building will be torn down soon.

2. Lacking a sense of duty; neglectful.

The supervisor was **derelict** in not having the repairs inspected.

n. A poor, homeless person.

The plan will help **derelicts** by providing shelters and assisting them in finding gainful employment.

detriment

dē' trə mənt

n. 1. Damage or harm.

She willingly stayed home with her young children to the **detriment** of her career.

2. Anything that causes harm.

Tobacco is a **detriment** to the health of smokers.

detrimental *adj.* Damaging; harmful.

Eating too much "junk food" is **detrimental** to one's health.

diversity

də vər' sə tē

n. 1. The condition of being different or having differences.

I was struck by the **diversity** in the personalities of the twins.

2. Variety.

The library offers a great **diversity** of materials on local history.

emit

ē mit'

v. 1. To give off or send out.

A candle **emits** very little light.

2. To utter or express.

The cat **emitted** a loud screech when I accidentally stepped on its tail.**emission** n. (ē mish' ən) Something that is emitted.Carbon monoxide is an odorless yet deadly **emission** from engine exhausts.**foster**

fōs' tər

v. To promote the growth of; to encourage.

The music teacher **fostered** an interest in jazz in his students.*adj.* Giving or receiving care in a family that is not related by birth or adoption.The Becks are **foster** parents to three small children.**inanimate**

in ən' ə mət

adj. Lacking qualities associated with living things.A stone is an **inanimate** object.**incentive**

in sen' tiv

n. Something that makes a person want to try or work harder.

A local benefactor offers \$1,000 scholarships as an **incentive** to students to stay in school.**omen**

ō' mən

n. An event or sign that is believed to indicate the future.

Do you believe that a black cat is an **omen** of bad luck?**ominous** *adj.* (ām' ə nəs) Of or like a bad omen; threatening.An **ominous** silence greeted us when we entered the room.**species**

spē' shēz

n. A group of plants or animals that are similar in some ways.

There are over a million different **species** of beetle in the world.**toxic**

tōks' ik

adj. Causing harm; poisonous.Pokeweed can be **toxic** to birds that eat its seeds.

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20A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 20. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) one who is not actually related to a child. (c) one who expresses interest in a child.
 (b) A foster parent is (d) A derelict parent is
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2. (a) A species is (c) a clear choice between alternatives.
 (b) An omen is (d) a group of similar plants or animals.

3. (a) the state of being confused.
(b) Diversity is
- (c) Apathy is
(d) the condition of having differences.

4. (a) a poor, homeless person.
(b) A derelict is
- (c) A badger is
(d) something that is unexplained.

5. (a) causes one to work harder.
(b) An incentive is something that
- (c) A delusion is something that
(d) causes injury or damage.

6. (a) Detriment is
(b) Apathy is
- (c) a lack of interest or concern.
(d) material for which there is no use.

7. (a) something that has been left out.
(b) a strongly held but false belief.
- (c) A delusion is
(d) An emission is

8. (a) To deplore change is
(b) to study it.
- (c) To compel change is
(d) to disapprove of it.

9. (a) An inanimate object is
(b) one that causes harm.
- (c) one that arouses interest or curiosity.
(d) A detrimental object is

10. (a) An emission is
(b) A badger is
- (c) something held back.
(d) something given off.

ZOB 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 20.

- The death angel or amanita mushroom is **likely to cause illness or death** if eaten.
- The object we examined under the microscope appeared to be **without any of the qualities associated with living things**.
- A red sky at night is believed to be an **indication that gives the promise** of good weather.

4. The children **kept on bothering** me until I agreed to take them to the circus.
5. The candidate was **misled by his mistaken beliefs** into thinking that the local newspaper would endorse him for Congress.
6. The *Voyager* space probe continued to **give off** signals from beyond the solar system.
7. The nation's mayors **expressed deep regret about** the lack of funds for inner-city schools.
8. When it is brought up today, the subject of homeschooling produces a great **number of differences** of opinion.
9. You cannot be **required or forced** to give evidence against yourself in a court of law.
10. The United Nations tries to **promote the growth of** greater understanding between countries.

ZOC Applying Meanings

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

apathy
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1. Which of the following are **detrimental** to good health?

(a) exercising	(c) resting
(b) stress	(d) overeating
2. Which of the following can **foster** education?

(a) parents	(c) teachers
(b) libraries	(d) experiences
3. Which of the following might result from an **incentive**?

(a) working harder	(c) working indifferently
(b) working longer	(d) working heedlessly
4. Which of the following sounds **ominous**?

(a) a lucrative offer	(c) an eerie moan
(b) a distraught cry	(d) an allegation of negligence
5. Which of the following are members of a **species**?

(a) human beings	(c) menageries
(b) planets	(d) bald eagles

6. Which of the following might a person **deplore**?
- (a) a blatant lie (c) an angry retort
(b) an intrepid act (d) a momentous discovery
7. Which of the following might describe an **apathetic** person?
- (a) industrious (c) agitated
(b) lethargic (d) exuberant
8. Which of the following can be **emitted**?
- (a) smoke (c) a signal
(b) a cry (d) a ray of light

ZOD Word Study

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

1. INANIMATE : LIFE ::
- (a) lethargic : energy (c) robust : health
(b) apathetic : boredom (d) perturbed : fear
2. BADGER : MAMMAL ::
- (a) plant : animal (c) hammer : saw
(b) finger : hand (d) rattlesnake : reptile
3. DETRIMENTAL : BENEFICIAL ::
- (a) intrepid : brave (c) difficult : grueling
(b) tedious : boring (d) fragile : robust
4. BIGOTRY : TOLERANCE ::
- (a) sovereign : monarch (c) insulation : warmth
(b) bleakness : hope (d) ghetto : poverty
5. REFUSE : SPURN ::
- (a) eat : drink (c) annoy : harass
(b) sleep : wake (d) procure : obtain
6. ACTUAL : PROSPECTIVE ::
- (a) obvious : subtle (c) trifling : significant
(b) sleek : mottled (d) present : future
7. APATHY : CONCERN ::
- (a) variety : diversity (c) theme : topic
(b) lethargy : energy (d) acclaim : praise

8. EMIT : ABSORB ::

- (a) covet : envy
(b) emerge : submerge

- (c) maul : harm
(d) spurn : reject

9. EBB : FLOW ::

- (a) vary : fluctuate
(b) end : terminate

- (c) recede : advance
(d) perturb : disturb

10. ASSENT : ASCENT ::

- (a) sleek : slick
(b) deny : admit

- (c) fluster : foster
(d) pique : peek

ZOE Passage

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

Saving the Planet

Smog is a mixture of smoke and fog, and Americans became unhappily aware of it in the 1960s when it hung over Los Angeles for days on end, making the air not only unpleasant to breathe but actually **detrimental** to people's health. Many believed this polluted air, produced by smoke from vehicle exhausts and factory chimneys, to be an **omen** of things to come if people did not take better care of the environment.

The environment is the world we inhabit—everything living and **inanimate**. Environmentalists are people who wish to preserve the environment; they **deplore** the damage we are doing to it. They remind us that we share our planet with an estimated thirty million or so other **species** of plants and animals, and they cherish this **diversity** of life.

For a long time, governments, both at the state and national level, had been **derelict** when it came to protecting the environment. The chief reason for this was the **apathy** of the public, who were largely unaware of environmental damage until it was almost too late. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, warned of the harm being done to the environment by overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Her book had an enormous impact; voters began to take an interest in environmental issues, so lawmakers were given the **incentive** to take action. Environmentalists **badgered** Congress to pass laws such as the Clean Air Acts of 1970 and 1990. Finally, industries that were the worst polluters were **compelled** to reduce the **emissions** from vehicles and factory chimneys.

Citizens cannot, however, be **deluded** into thinking that simply passing laws will protect people from environmental harm. Individuals must remain active. An example of a person who did just this is Janice Dickerson. She made it her mission in life to educate people about the dangers of living along a seventy-five-mile stretch of the Mississippi River south of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During recent decades, it witnessed the building of more than one hundred chemical factories and oil refineries, which emitted smoke from chimneys and dumped chemicals into the river. Known as "cancer alley," this area has one of the highest cancer rates in the United States.

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Lois Gibbs is another person active in the environmental movement. In 1978, it was discovered that Love Canal, three blocks from her home near Buffalo, New York, had been a dumping ground for **toxic** chemicals. The local residents, fearing that they too would suffer from the asthma and blood disorders experienced by some of their neighbors, felt forced to abandon their homes. Gibbs moved to Washington, D.C., where she runs a consulting service for people across the country who find themselves in situations similar to the people of Love Canal. She also speaks about such issues across the country.

One of the most effective ways of getting people involved in environmental issues has been Earth Day, whose purpose is to **foster** awareness of the harm we are doing to our planet. Started in 1970 in the United States, it has grown rapidly, and on Earth Day 2000, people in 184 countries participated in its activities. Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22, but to those who care about the environment, every day is Earth Day.

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. Is the environment composed only of living things?

2. How might your class **foster** awareness of Earth Day?

3. Why was it necessary to reduce smog in the nation's cities?

4. In terms of their future, what did people especially fear about smog?

5. Why did people have to abandon their homes near Love Canal?

6. Were Dickerson and Gibbs content simply to **deplore** the harm being done to the environment?

7. How did Rachel Carson help to end people's **apathy**?

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

9. Why did lawmakers wait until 1970 to pass the first Clean Air Act?

10. How did environmentalists influence Congress to do something about pollution?

11. What effect did laws such as the Clean Air Acts have on industry?

12. What was the main cause of the smog in Los Angeles in the 1960s?

13. What might you say about someone who claims that the environment is unharmed?

14. What does every human being have in common with every other human?

15. Why do environmentalists wish to preserve the environment?