

# Lesson 19

## Word List

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

### bulwark

bool' wərk

*n.* 1. A wall-like structure used as a defense.  
A wall of sandbags acted as a **bulwark** against the rising floodwaters.  
2. A person or thing that protects or defends.  
The Bill of Rights of our Constitution is a **bulwark** of our individual liberties.

### culminate

kul' mi nāt

*v.* To reach or bring to the highest point.  
On the Boston Common, the Fourth of July celebrations **culminated** in a spectacular fireworks display.  
**culmination** *n.* The result of a sustained effort; the high point or climax.  
Winning three Olympic gold medals was the **culmination** of Florence Griffith Joyner's brilliant athletic career.

### engulf

en gulf'

*v.* To swallow up by covering completely; to overwhelm.  
During Hurricane Danny, a huge wave **engulfed** the boat and almost swept the crew overboard.

### feasible

fē' zə bəl

*adj.* Able to be done; possible or likely.  
Building a new library is **feasible** provided that the town allots sufficient funds for it.

### glut

glut

*n.* A much larger supply than is needed.  
A **glut** of office space in downtown buildings resulted in a sharp drop in Boston's rents.  
*v.* 1. To supply a much larger amount than is needed.  
The weather was so ideal that California's growers **glutted** the market with strawberries.  
2. To eat or consume to excess.  
Sitting under the heavily laden branches, we **glutted** ourselves on ripe peaches.

### havoc

hav' ək

*n.* 1. Widespread destruction or devastation.  
This morning we warily surveyed the **havoc** caused by yesterday's storm.  
2. Great confusion.  
When the rabbits escaped from their cages, they created **havoc** in Ms. Sweeney's classroom.

### impregnable

im preg' nə bəl

*adj.* Impossible to attack successfully.  
The citadel was **impregnable** because of its hilltop location and strong defenses.

### indefatigable

in də fat' i gə bəl

*adj.* Not easily made tired; tireless.  
Rescuers at El Teniente were **indefatigable** in their all-night efforts to reach the trapped copper miners.

### onslaught

ən' slōt

*n.* A fierce attack.  
The Union **onslaught** at Gettysburg stopped General Robert E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania.

**phenomenon**

fə nām' ə nān

*n.* 1. Any fact or event that can be observed or described.

The aurora borealis, or northern lights, is a **phenomenon** visible in the night sky in the far north.

2. An unusual fact, event, or person.

Publishing her first novel when she was eighty-five made her a publishing **phenomenon**.

**phenomenal** *adj.* Extraordinary; very unusual.

You must have a **phenomenal** memory to remember all those names after hearing them just once!

**picturesque**

pik chər esk'

*adj.* Like a picture; pleasing or charming to look at.

My favorite painting was of a **picturesque** old cottage with roses climbing its walls.

**simultaneous**

sī məl tā' nē əs

*adj.* Happening or existing at the same time.

When the thunder and lightning are almost **simultaneous**, the storm is very close to you.

**stipulate**

stip' yōō lāt

*v.* To require as part of an agreement or contract.

My lease **stipulates** that the landlord cannot raise the rent without giving thirty days notice.

**susceptible**

sə sep' tə bəl

*adj.* Open or subject to; easily influenced or affected by.

Because I have hay fever, I am very **susceptible** to ragweed pollen.

**wrest**

rest

*v.* 1. To pull away from with a twist.

Tom **wrested** the ball from the player on the opposing team.

2. To take by force or as if by force.

The military leaders **wrested** control of the government of Chile from President Allende.

## 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) Feasible events are those  
(b) that are copies of other events.
- (c) that occur at the same time.  
(d) Simultaneous events are those

2. (a) a fierce attack.  
(b) An onslaught is
- (c) A bulwark is  
(d) a demand greater than the supply.

3. (a) be overwhelmed by something.  
(b) To be indefatigable is to
- (c) To be susceptible is to  
(d) be easily affected by something.

4. (a) is as pleasing as a picture.  
(b) exists only in the imagination.
- (c) An impregnable place is one that  
(d) A picturesque place is one that

5. (a) To create havoc is to  
(b) To create a glut is to
- (c) cause a temporary shortage.  
(d) cause large-scale destruction.
- 
6. (a) obtain it with force.  
(b) To wrest something is to
- (c) To engulf something is to  
(d) feed it more than it needs.
- 
7. (a) something that cannot be explained.  
(b) something that offers protection.
- (c) A phenomenon is  
(d) A bulwark is
- 
8. (a) A glut of something is  
(b) A culmination of something is
- (c) its low point.  
(d) an oversupply of it.
- 
9. (a) To engulf something  
(b) To stipulate something
- (c) is to be protected against it.  
(d) is to insist on it.
- 
10. (a) A phenomenon is  
(b) A culmination is
- (c) something unusual or extraordinary.  
(d) an unintended consequence or result.

bulwark  
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engulf  
feasible  
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havoc  
impregnable  
indefatigable  
onslaught  
phenomenon  
picturesque  
simultaneous  
stipulate  
susceptible  
wrest

## 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 disagreements between players and management **reached the point of greatest intensity** in the 1994 baseball strike.
- The Parents' Council's plan to raise scholarship money seems **likely to work** if everyone helps with the event.
- Massive stones around the base of the shack made a **wall-like structure used for defense** against the shifting sand.
- My grandmother was **unwilling to give in to exhaustion** in her efforts to earn enough money to send me to camp.
- Rain in the desert is a **very unusual event** that shocks and pleases nomads.

6. Martina was such a strong swimmer that she escaped the wave that **swept over** her.
7. Ravi's little brother **took by force** the remote control from my hand.
8. Strawberry growers **produced more than met the need of** the market, so we got strawberries for dessert in our school lunches.
9. The sudden Red Sox defeat caused a **great amount of confusion** in the bleachers.
10. Peter's position on the chess board was **so strong that defeat was impossible**.

## 19C Applying Meanings

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

1. On which of the following could one **glut** oneself?  
(a) food (c) shelter  
(b) air (d) exercise
2. Which of the following can be **simultaneous**?  
(a) two places (c) two events  
(b) two names (d) two sounds
3. Which of the following could cause **havoc**?  
(a) a reprisal (c) a mutiny  
(b) a calamity (d) a deluge
4. Which of the following would be **phenomenal**?  
(a) living to be one hundred (c) shooting baskets  
(b) memorizing the Bible (d) swimming the Atlantic Ocean
5. Which of the following could be **picturesque**?  
(a) a panorama of mountains (c) a gruesome discovery  
(b) a pastoral painting (d) a musical piece
6. To which of the following can a person be **susceptible**?  
(a) flattery (c) suggestions  
(b) maladies (d) entreaties

7. Which of the following can be **wrested** from someone?
- (a) a rebuff (c) a weapon  
(b) control (d) power
8. Which of the following is **feasible**?
- (a) walking across the country (c) controlling one's temper  
(b) making a billion dollars (d) running a car on water

## 19D 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. ANNOYANCE : TRIBULATION ::

- (a) order : anarchy (c) scolding : tirade  
(b) agility : stamina (d) aperture : window

### 2. IMPECCABLE : FLAW ::

- (a) pungent : smell (c) prudent : caution  
(b) irascible : patience (d) enigmatic : mystery

### 3. GLIB : SINCERITY ::

- (a) despicable : dismay (c) inane : sense  
(b) affluent : wealth (d) immaculate : forbearance

### 4. PATRIARCH : TRIBE ::

- (a) accord : agreement (c) president : company  
(b) mind : intellect (d) philanthropist : gift

### 5. INCESSANT : PAUSE ::

- (a) interminable : end (c) ineffectual : effort  
(b) balmy : breeze (d) lively : vitality

### 6. POISON : ANTIDOTE ::

- (a) pain : agony (c) disease : cure  
(b) surmise : conjecture (d) barter : trade

### 7. SIMULTANEOUS : TIME ::

- (a) voluminous : volume (c) identical : appearance  
(b) rapid : speed (d) abundant : profusion

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## 8. GLUT : SCARCITY ::

- (a) tumult : turbulence  
(b) banter : brevity  
(c) affluence : poverty  
(d) bulwark : protection

## 9. PUNGENT : NOSE ::

- (a) colorful : eye  
(b) strident : ear  
(c) pale : skin  
(d) interminable : time

## 10. DELEGATE : RESPONSIBILITY ::

- (a) respond : question  
(b) pilfer : theft  
(c) immerse : water  
(d) bequeath : asset

## 19E Passage

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

## The Thousand-Year Battle

What can a small country do if more than a quarter of its land lies below sea level, threatened continuously by inundation? How can it **wrest** control of the land from the sea so it can be used productively? For over a thousand years, the people of Holland have worked **indefatigably** to accomplish this task by building a system of dikes—great walls of earth and rock—as a **bulwark** against the sea.

In 1953, however, a freak combination of unusually high tides and hurricane-force winds along the southwestern coast caused this system to break down. Unable to withstand the storm's **onslaught**, many dikes gave way, allowing the sea to pour through. It **engulfed** the land, flooding 450,000 acres, killing eighteen hundred people, and driving thousands more from their homes.

The Dutch responded to this renewed challenge from the sea with the Delta Project, a plan to build a complex system of greatly strengthened dikes and dams whose most innovative feature was a gigantic barrier designed to seal off Holland's southern coast, the area most **susceptible** to flooding. Begun shortly after the 1953 disaster, the five-billion-dollar Delta Project took over thirty years to build and was opened officially on October 4, 1986, by Queen Beatrix.

To the Dutch people, the Delta Project seemed like the **culmination** of their thousand-year battle against the forces of nature. Having constructed an **impregnable** barrier against the sea, they could now declare victory. But within a very few years they realized that their reclaiming and use of the land had created other problems.

As far back as the fifteenth century, the Dutch had relied on pumps to remove water from the ground. The **picturesque** windmills so often associated with the Dutch landscape provided the power to operate these pumps. Modern technology provides more efficient methods, which the Dutch have used. The removal of groundwater, however, has lowered farther the level of the land, making it vulnerable again to flooding.

**Simultaneously**, another factor that has been noted worldwide in recent years is an elevation in sea level. This **phenomenon** is a result of what is known as the "greenhouse effect." Many scientists believe that carbon dioxide and other gases trapped in the upper layers of the atmosphere act like the glass in a greenhouse, permitting heat from the sun to pass through but preventing it from escaping. The result, these scientists believe, is global warming, which could melt polar ice, causing the sea level to rise two feet over the next hundred years.

The Dutch face other problems because of their intensive farming methods. They relied heavily on chemical fertilizers, which have played **havoc** with the environment, to such an extent that the stork, Holland's national symbol, has almost disappeared. In addition, the European Community, to which Holland belongs, faced with a **glut** of agricultural products, has **stipulated** that its members take fifteen percent of farmland out of production.

As a result of these pressures, the Dutch have arrived at a decision that once would have been completely unthinkable. Realizing that it was no longer **feasible** to continue such an extensive and unrelenting fight against nature, they have devised a plan that allows one-tenth of their farmland to revert to its natural state. Land once twenty feet below sea level that has been cultivated for a hundred years will again be under water.

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 made the Dutch realize that the dikes were not **impregnable**?

2. How are the modern windmills the Dutch use different from the old-fashioned kind?

3. Why did the high tides and strong winds do so much damage in 1953?

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

5. Do scientists think that the greenhouse effect explains global warming? Explain.

6. Why is Holland **susceptible** to flooding?

7. What did the Delta Project mean to the Dutch people?

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

9. How were the Dutch able to cultivate land that lay below sea level?
10. How does the passage suggest that the Dutch have worked tirelessly?
11. How effective were the dikes against the freak storm of 1953?
12. What happened to Dutch farms when the dikes gave way?
13. What is the meaning of **havoc** as it is used in the passage?
14. What contributed recently to keeping down the cost of vegetables in Europe?
15. What made Holland take farmland out of production?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

In Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Mark Antony says, "Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war," as he realizes his assassination of Caesar will bring more bloodshed. This word has an interesting history. In Europe, during the early Middle Ages, when a band of robbers was about to lay waste to a village or other settlement, the leader would cry, "Havot!" This was the signal to start the attack. The word originated among tribes in Germany and meant "take by force" or "plunder." The result of such plundering was widespread confusion and destruction. The word, later changed to **havoc**, entered the English language by way of French and came to

have its present meaning of "widespread devastation" or "destruction."

The Greek verb *phain* means "to appear." It forms the root of **phenomenon**, "an event that can be perceived by, or appears to, the senses." The correct plural of *phenomenon* is *phenomena*. (Among the *phenomena* we observed were an eclipse of the sun and a display of shooting stars.) Note, however, that in its meaning of "a rare or unusual event," *phenomenons* is also correct. (To have a musical genius in the family is rare, but to have two such *phenomenons* is almost unheard of.)