

Lesson 15

Word List

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

ascertain

as ər tain'

v. To find out for certain.

Ms. Jenckes sent Terry to **ascertain** the cause of the delay.

chastise

chas' tiz

v. 1. To punish by beating.

A hundred years ago disruptive students were **chastised** with a cane.

2. To rebuke or criticize severely.

It is embarrassing to be **chastised** in public.

cull

kul

v. To select and remove weak or inferior members from.

Game wardens **cull** the deer herd when it grows too large for the food supply.

defer

dē fur'

v. 1. To put off or postpone.

General Rankin **deferred** a decision on moving troops forward until he heard from his scouts.

2. To yield to out of respect for the knowledge or authority of another.

My uncle usually **defers** to my aunt, who is a doctor, when someone in the family is sick.

deference *n.* (def' ər əns) Submitting to the wishes of another because of respect.

Our parents taught my brother and me to show **deference** to our elders.

desist

dī sist'

v. To refrain from continuing something.

Both sides must **desist** from shooting while their leaders meet to negotiate.

discredit

dis kred' it

v. 1. To hurt the reputation of.

Mike was **discredited** by his own actions.

2. To destroy confidence or trust in.

New scientific evidence often **discredits** earlier theories.

encroach

en krōch'

v. To advance little by little beyond the usual limits or boundaries.

We pruned the branches of the maple tree that **encroached** on our property.

foreboding

fōr bōd' īŋ

n. A strong feeling that something bad is about to happen.

It was with **foreboding** that we began to search for the missing child.

humane

hyōō măn'

adj. Compassionate, kind to other human beings or to animals.

What is **humane** treatment for a horse with a broken leg?

irrational

ir rash' ən əl

adj. Lacking sound judgment; not governed by reason.

As she approached the house, Candace felt an **irrational** fear inside herself.

lurid

loor' id

adj. 1. Causing horror; extremely gruesome.

My parents will not give me permission to see that movie because of several **lurid** scenes it contains.

2. Glowing with the redness of flames seen through a haze.

The dense smog gave the rays of the setting sun a **lurid** cast.

perpetuate
pəˈpɛtʃəˈoʊət

v. To cause to continue indefinitely.

The division of the country into sections for each religious group only **perpetuates** the hostility they feel toward each other.

restive
rɛsˈtɪv

adj. Showing impatience because of restrictions or delays.

We grew **restive** as we awaited permission to return to our flooded house.

stamina
stəˈmɪnə

n. Physical strength or courage to resist hardship, illness, or fatigue.

Jill claims that running five miles a day has built up her **stamina**.

surveillance
səˈvɑːljəns

n. Close observation of a person or area.

Because the police believed the suspect would contact his sister, they placed her under round-the-clock **surveillance**.

15A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 15. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) is to find out about it. (c) is to keep it a secret.
(b) To perpetuate something (d) To ascertain something

2. (a) To discredit someone is to (c) borrow from that person.
(b) hurt that person's reputation. (d) To chastise someone is to

3. (a) one that is enjoying a rest period. (c) one that is showing impatience.
(b) A restive group is (d) A humane group is

ascertain

chastise

cull

defer

desist

discredit

encroach

foreboding

humane

irrational

lurid

perpetuate

restive

stamina

surveillance

4. (a) a lack of certainty. (c) a close watch on a subject.
(b) Surveillance is (d) Stamina is

5. (a) criticize that person severely. (c) To defer to someone is to
(b) take that person's place. (d) To chastise someone is to

6. (a) To perpetuate something (c) To cull something
(b) is to keep it going. (d) is to put it out of one's mind.

7. (a) Foreboding is (c) doubt about something.
(b) Deference is (d) respect shown to another.

8. (a) A lurid account
 (b) An irrational account
 (c) is one that is highly critical.
 (d) is one that shocks or horrifies.

9. (a) express one's feelings strongly.
 (b) refrain from continuing something.
 (c) To encroach is to
 (d) To desist is to

10. (a) Foreboding is
 (b) Stamina is
 (c) an uneasy feeling about what might happen.
 (d) the ability to predict future events.

15B 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 15.

1. That **glowing reddish** light in the night sky was caused by a burning haystack.
2. How can we **find out for certain** the time that Doug left the house?
3. The large number of dropouts from our high school **shows that it is impossible to trust** this enthusiastic report on progress.
4. Swimming laps every morning builds up one's **ability to withstand fatigue**.
5. Keeping dogs in such small cages is not **treating them in a compassionate manner**.
6. The suburbs continue to **move little by little** onto good farmland.
7. Dairy farmers usually **select and sell** those cows that produce the least milk.
8. After a conference with my coach, I was willing to **yield out of respect** to his suggestions.
9. Everyone in the family worried that grandfather had been **quite incapable of thinking clearly and logically** when he sold his house without consulting any of them.
10. Airport officials insisted on **very close observation** of the baggage area at all times.

15C 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 **deferred**?

(a) a final decision	(c) the first day of spring
(b) payment	(d) one's retirement

2. Which of the following might fill one with **foreboding**?

(a) an anonymous threat	(c) an affable employer
(b) a strange noise	(d) a malevolent colleague

3. Which of the following can be **ascertained**?

(a) the price of a car	(c) the causes of the Civil War
(b) the age of the earth	(d) the weight of a diamond

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

(a) behavior	(c) fear
(b) people	(d) heat

5. Which of the following can be **lurid**?

(a) the sky	(c) a dialect
(b) a novel	(d) a fanfare

6. Which of the following might become **restive**?

(a) a loose boulder	(c) an irksome task
(b) a bored audience	(d) a small child

7. For which of the following would one need **stamina**?

(a) succumbing to a disease	(c) cycling across the country
(b) contemplating nature	(d) making a cake

8. Which of the following can be **discredited**?

(a) an explanation	(c) a claim
(b) a rumor	(d) a report

ascertain
 chastise
 cull
 defer
 desist
 discredit
 encroach
 foreboding
 humane
 irrational
 lurid
 perpetuate
 restive
 stamina
 surveillance

15D 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. MILLENNIUM : CENTURY ::
(a) winter : summer
(b) space : time
(c) kilometer : mile
(d) decade : year
2. PLEASANT : SUBLIME ::
(a) plain : ornate
(b) sore : excruciating
(c) healthy : sick
(d) brief : concise
3. SCOLD : CHASTISE ::
(a) echo : reverberate
(b) depart : embark
(c) praise : lionize
(d) increase : augment
4. PATIENT : RESTIVE ::
(a) serene : turbulent
(b) brief : concise
(c) bizarre : inane
(d) gruesome : grotesque
5. FOREBODING : MEMORY ::
(a) claustrophobia : space
(b) inkling : suspicion
(c) future : past
(d) imagination : reality
6. PERPETUATE : HALT ::
(a) depict : illustrate
(b) deter : discourage
(c) encroach : withdraw
(d) defer : yield
7. LUMINOUS : LIGHT ::
(a) tasty : taste
(b) audible : sound
(c) sunny : day
(d) starry : night
8. ENTHUSIASM : MANIA ::
(a) serenity : turmoil
(b) defiance : mutiny
(c) doctor : patient
(d) health : pestilence
9. CONGENIAL : SMILE ::
(a) contagious : disease
(b) ardent : ardor
(c) synonymous : name
(d) angry : frown
10. BARTER : GOODS ::
(a) exchange : greetings
(b) create : art
(c) play : sports
(d) perform : audience

15E Passage

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

Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?

Early American settlers, alone at night in their log cabins, far from their nearest neighbors, must have had a sense of **foreboding** as they heard the howling of wolves in the darkness. **Lurid** stories of savage attacks on humans had fired their imaginations, while phrases such as "keeping the wolf from the door," along with tales like "Little Red Riding Hood," may have **perpetuated** the belief that the wolf was a ferocious beast who made unprovoked attacks on humans.

This fear of wolves is quite **irrational**. Wolves do kill to live, but they do not kill humans. Every story of a wolf attacking humans has been **discredited** by those who have studied the subject. One researcher investigating the behavior of arctic wolves in northern Canada removed a pup from its mother and took it into a nearby tent. Even though the mother became **restive**, she waited outside the tent until the pup was returned to her.

The truth is that wolves are quite wary, if not completely afraid, of humans and with good reason. During the last several hundred years, humans have **encroached** on their habitats and by trapping, shooting, and poisoning have almost completely eliminated them from the lower forty-eight states. Today, the gray wolf, also known as the timber wolf, is found on the North American continent only in the northern United States and Canada.

In the last several decades, however, attitudes toward wolves have been changing. As people have understood that these creatures might not survive without human help, they have actively supported plans to reestablish wolves in wilderness areas where they once flourished. During the late 1980s, red wolves were successfully returned to regions of the southeastern United States where they once lived. In 1995, a three-year project to reintroduce gray wolves to one of their original habitats began in Yellowstone National Park.

To make sure these projects succeed, scientists and wildlife specialists have been studying wolves extensively. To gather information, they catch individual animals in **humane** traps, then fit them with collars containing radio transmitters before releasing them. These transmitters help the scientists **ascertain** the movements of wolf packs. Other observers keep the animals under **surveillance** from aircraft flying overhead.

From their observations, scientists know that a wolf pack usually consists of five to fifteen animals and may need anywhere from forty to four hundred square miles in order to maintain itself, the size depending on the number of wolves in the pack and the amount of game available. In their continual search for food, wolves demonstrate tremendous **stamina**, maintaining a steady pace for hours at a time if necessary. They show amazing intelligence as they work in close cooperation with each other to bring down their prey, which includes elk, moose, caribou, and deer. By **culling** herds of old or sick animals, wolves perform a valuable service, strengthening the herd by leaving more grazing areas for the remaining animals. If a herd becomes much reduced, wolves will **desist** from preying on it until its size has increased to a normal level.

Wolves usually mate for life. They are very protective of their young, caring for them until they are fully grown at about two years. A strict social order is maintained within the pack and all **defer** to the leader, who alone decides when and where to hunt.

Scientists have observed that wolves communicate in various ways. Whimpering indicates restlessness or hunger, while snarling is used to put members of the pack in their place if they become too assertive, almost like a parent **chastising** an unruly child. As for the howling in the night that struck terror into the American settlers' hearts, it was probably a warning to other wolves that their scent had been detected and that they were invading territory that was already occupied. It did not mean that an attack on humans was imminent. As a Canadian trapper is once supposed to have said: "Anyone who says he's been et by a wolf is a liar."

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. How do wolves keep herds of deer and other animals healthy?

2. How have the actions of humans toward wolves changed in the last twenty years?

3. What is the meaning of **discredited** as it is used in the passage?

4. How might the mother wolf who had her pup taken away have communicated that she was **restive**?

5. Why would it be inaccurate to describe the social order in a wolf pack as equal?

6. Why would it be **irrational** to fear wolves today?

7. What is the meaning of **chastise** as it is used in the passage?

8. Why were people's **forebodings** unnecessary when they heard wolves howl?

9. How do researchers **ascertain** information about wolves today?

10. Why do you think **surveillance** of wolf pack movements would be easier in winter?

11. Why are tales like “Little Red Riding Hood” unfair to wolves?

12. What is the meaning of **lurid** as it is used in the passage?

13. What is one possible reason for wolves howling?

14. What is required of a **humane** trap for catching wolves?

15. What physical quality do wolves have that makes them good hunters?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

One very well-known line of poetry is Alexander Pope’s “To err is human, to forgive divine.” However, what he actually wrote was, “To err is humane, to forgive divine.” In the early eighteenth century, when the line was written, *human* and **humane** did not have separate meanings. This is no longer the case. *Human* refers to any quality—good, bad, or neutral—associated with human beings. (The *human* voice has a range of about two octaves.) *Humane* is restricted to those qualities that express sympathy for other creatures. (The law requires the *humane* treatment of animals in captivity.)

In Greek mythology, the three fates were goddesses who controlled the length of human life. They were

Clotho, who spun the thread of life; Lachesis, who measured its length; and Atropos, who cut it. The Greek word for thread is *stemon*, which passed into Latin as *stamen*, the plural of which is **stamina**. Those who lived a long time were believed to have lengthy *stamina*, or “threads of life.” Because people who lived to an old age were believed to have physical strength and endurance, *stamina* came to have these meanings. Note that although *stamina* is a plural form in Latin, in English *stamina* is treated as a singular noun.