

# Lesson 4

## Word List

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

### adage

ad' ij

*n.* An old saying that has come to be accepted as true; a proverb.

Preparing to move again, I comforted myself with the **adage** "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

### camaraderie

käm' ə rād' ər ē

*n.* Good will and warm feelings among friends.

A spirit of **camaraderie** filled the room where the group gathered for its high-school reunion.

### contend

kən tend'

*v.* 1. To struggle with.

Mail carriers sometimes have to **contend** with bothersome dogs.

2. To maintain or assert.

Opponents of nuclear power plants **contend** that the risk of a malfunction in one is too great.

**contention** *n.* 1. A conflict or struggle.

Miwa and Jessie are in **contention** for first place on the honor roll.

2. A point made in an argument.

It is my **contention** that the ghost you claim to have seen was merely a shadow on the wall.

### extraneous

ek strā' nē əs

*adj.* Not necessary; irrelevant.

When you revise your written instructions, eliminate any **extraneous** details.

### hubbub

hu' bub

*n.* Noisy confusion; uproar.

Fans thronged onto the field in a **hubbub** of excitement when the Boston Red Sox won the pennant.

### meander

mē an' dər

*v.* 1. To follow a winding course.

The Mississippi River **meanders** from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

2. To wander aimlessly.

Shoppers at the sidewalk sale **meandered** through the street looking for bargains.

### odoriferous

ō dər if' ər əs

*adj.* Having or giving off a smell.

**Odoriferous** fumes spewed from the truck's exhaust.

### paraphernalia

pər ə fər nāl' yə

*n.* 1. Personal belongings.

We accumulated so much **paraphernalia** that the closets couldn't hold it all.

2. Equipment associated with a particular activity.

We keep our riding **paraphernalia** in the barn.

### punctilious

pʌŋk til' ē əs

*adj.* Careful of and attentive to details, especially ones relating to good manners and behavior.

A **punctilious** host tries to leave nothing to chance when preparing for guests.

### recuperate

rē kœ' pər āt'

*v.* To regain health or strength.

Her surgeon expects Amanda to **recuperate** quickly.

### regale

rē gāl'

*v.* To entertain or delight.

Charlie **regaled** the guests with his funny stories.

### sedentary

sed' n ter' ē

*adj.* Doing or requiring a lot of sitting.

Operating a computer is **sedentary** work.



**Spartan**  
spärt' n

*adj.* Marked by simplicity and lack of luxury.  
The Marine sergeant described the **Spartan** way of life at the recruits' training camp.

**temporal**  
tem' pər əl

*adj.* Relating to the everyday world as opposed to that which is spiritual or eternal.  
Medieval kings were the **temporal** rulers of their states, but in religious matters they accepted the Pope's authority.

**wry**  
rī

*adj.* 1. Turned or bent to one side in distaste or humor.  
He gave a **wry** smile as he admitted believing such a far-fetched tale.  
2. Amusing in a quiet but sharp way.  
The poem's **wry** wit made me smile inwardly.

## 4A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write *C* on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. To **meander** is to move directly from one place to another.

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2. A **sedentary** occupation is one that requires much traveling.

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3. An **extraneous** matter is one that is not related to the topic at hand.

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4. An **adage** is a new section attached to an old house.

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5. An **odoriferous** substance is one that produces a scent.

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6. To **contend** something is to claim that it is so.

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7. A **wry** facial expression is one with a slight twist to it.

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8. A **punctilious** person is one who is frequently late.

9. To **regale** a crowd is to make the people in it laugh.

10. A **hubbub** is a kind of bath oil.

11. **Camaraderie** is a type of march appropriate for a parade.

12. To **recuperate** is to return to one's place of departure.

13. **Paraphernalia** consists of items needed for a special undertaking.

14. **Temporal** affairs are those concerned with material rather than spiritual matters.

15. A **Spartan** diet is one that excludes meat and meat products.

adage

camaraderie

contend

extraneous

hubbub

meander

odoriferous

paraphernalia

punctilious

recuperate

regale

sedentary

Spartan

temporal

wry

## 4B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

### I. **odoriferous**

(a) An \_\_\_\_\_ sight met my eyes when I opened the door.

(b) The \_\_\_\_\_ perfume of honeysuckle on the vine brings back childhood memories.

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ bags of garbage lay on the sidewalk waiting to be collected.



**2. contend**

- (a) Do you still \_\_\_\_\_ that the first Olympic Games were held in 76 B.C.E.?
- (b) Sixteen teams \_\_\_\_\_ for the title of national champion.
- (c) The sailboats had to \_\_\_\_\_ with strong winds on the first leg of the race.

**3. wry**

- (a) I had pastrami on \_\_\_\_\_ bread for lunch.
- (b) Alyssa took a sip from the glass of cider and made a \_\_\_\_\_ face as she set it down.
- (c) Maxwell broke the uncomfortable silence by interjecting a comment spiced with his \_\_\_\_\_ sense of humor.

**4. temporal**

- (a) I made a \_\_\_\_\_ repair in the bathroom and hoped it would last until the plumber came.
- (b) The preacher stressed the importance of spiritual matters rather than \_\_\_\_\_ ones.
- (c) The ethics book deals with \_\_\_\_\_ matters, avoiding all religious questions.

**5. regale**

- (a) The actress who played Catherine the Great made a truly \_\_\_\_\_ entrance.
- (b) Uncle Boris loved to \_\_\_\_\_ his guests with mystifying card tricks.
- (c) It would \_\_\_\_\_ me greatly if you would accept this invitation.

**6. camaraderie**

- (a) What I enjoyed most about summer camp was the \_\_\_\_\_ between counselors and campers.
- (b) A feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ soon developed among the members of the cast.
- (c) Julius seems to have lost his \_\_\_\_\_ and has gone off alone.

**7. hubbub**

- (a) The \_\_\_\_\_ of my younger sister and her friends in the next room made it impossible for me to concentrate on my math assignment.
- (b) The two girls patched up their \_\_\_\_\_ and agreed to be friends again.
- (c) The \_\_\_\_\_ died down when the judge entered the courtroom.

**8. recuperate**

- (a) We could hear the coffee \_\_\_\_\_, so we knew it was ready.
- (b) I went to my grandmother's to \_\_\_\_\_ after my operation.
- (c) I told her to \_\_\_\_\_ all her good fortune and stop feeling sorry for herself.





## 4C Word Study

Change each of the verbs below into a noun by changing, adding, or dropping the suffix. Write the word in the space provided.

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Noun</u>
1. emancipate	_____
2. disseminate	_____
3. exhort	_____
4. lament	_____
5. subjugate	_____
6. contend	_____

Change each of the adjectives below into a noun by changing, adding, or dropping the suffix. Write the word in the space provided.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Noun</u>
7. destitute	_____
8. flamboyant	_____
9. ingenious	_____
10. traumatic	_____

adage  
camaraderie  
contend  
extraneous  
hubbub  
meander  
odoriferous  
paraphernalia  
punctilious  
recuperate  
regale  
sedentary  
Spartan  
temporal  
wry

## 4D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

### 1. **contention**

- (a) I still say that our soccer team has a chance of winning the championship.
- (b) Students and faculty disagree over the proposed dress code.
- (c) Maisie liked nothing better than to curl up with a good book.

### 2. **adage**

- (a) The early bird catches the worm.
- (b) Haste makes waste.
- (c) Wait here until I get back.



**3. punctilious**

- (a) This is the third flat tire I've had in less than a week.
- (b) As soon as I got up off the sofa, Marjorie straightened out the cushions.
- (c) I told Jed to forget about it, but he insisted on paying me back the dollar.

**4. Spartan**

- (a) The room contained only a bed, a chest of drawers, and a lamp.
- (b) We lived mostly on bread and potatoes with an occasional piece of fruit.
- (c) There was nothing to read but some old magazines and romance novels.

**5. sedentary**

- (a) Every hour or so, Robertson left his desk to do some stretching exercises.
- (b) I took some medicine for my headache and continued my walk.
- (c) Layers of sand on the ocean floor formed these sandstone cliffs.

**6. paraphernalia**

- (a) The fans went crazy when the referee made the call.
- (b) The Genoveses' fishhooks, nylon line, sinkers, and lures were kept in the tackle box.
- (c) A pen and some paper are all that a poet needs.

**7. meander**

- (a) The flock of geese took off from the pond and headed south.
- (b) The tourists made their way around Chicago on foot, taking in the many sights.
- (c) We crossed the river at a number of points, going from one side to the other.

**8. camaraderie**

- (a) It took over an hour to put the scattered papers back in order.
- (b) From his earliest years, Joshua was very talkative.
- (c) Although I had just met the captain, there was something about him that made me trust him.

**9. extraneous**

- (a) Last week, I made fifty dollars more than my regular pay by working overtime.
- (b) What Caroline told him is beside the point and need not concern us.
- (c) You don't need to take your overcoat on a Caribbean vacation.

**10. wry**

- (a) Do you think that this milk has a funny taste?
- (b) The wire had become so twisted that it was difficult to move the phone across the room.
- (c) When I asked a worried-looking Karl if he needed help, he replied, "No. I'm doing fine."



## 4E Passage

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

## The Longest Journey

An **adage** states that the longest journey begins with a single step. If the journey is along the length of the 2,144-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail, that step will be followed by approximately five million more! Stretching primarily along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Mount Katahdin, Maine, “the longest footpath in the world” **meanders** through fourteen states along the Atlantic seaboard. Although virtually all the land over which the trail passes is owned by the National Park Service, it is privately managed by thirty-one Appalachian Trail Clubs, whose members, all volunteers, are **punctilious** about maintaining the trail and its markers; these clubs also provide the **Spartan** shelters located a day’s hike apart along its length.

Several million people walk a part of the Appalachian Trail each year, and a hundred or so travel its entire length, taking up to half a year to do so. These “thru-hikers” include people from all walks of life, ranging in age from teenagers to people in their seventies and older. A retired admiral, a couple on a six-month honeymoon walk, and a veteran hiker who has traveled the trail a half-dozen times may find themselves bedding down in the same shelter at the end of the day to **recuperate** from six or eight hours of strenuous walking. As the sun goes down, hikers enjoy the **camaraderie** that develops among those enjoying a common experience. They can rub their sore feet, share the food they carry in their backpacks, and **regale** each other with stories of the day’s adventures.

Perhaps the most remarkable “thru-hiker” is Bill Irwin, whose eight-month adventure began when he set off from Springer Mountain in the early spring of 1990, and ended when he reached Mount Katahdin on November 22. Because his trip took longer than most, he had to **contend** with ghastly weather conditions toward the end, including one-hundred-miles-per-hour wind gusts and a blizzard that dumped two feet of snow on the trail. The reason his hike was so long and slow is that Irwin is a blind person who was accompanied only by Orient, his seeing eye dog. In a **wry** allusion, Irwin referred to himself and his companion as “the Orient Express.”

The trail’s rustic charm is one of its main attractions, and although Irwin was unable to enjoy the splendid mountain views it affords, his other senses are so highly developed that through listening, feeling, and smelling, he believes he missed very little. He couldn’t see the white two-by-six-inch markers painted on trees and rocks that identify the trail, but he was never in danger of getting lost. To Orient, whose sense of smell is unusually well developed, it was easy to follow the **odoriferous** trail—filled with the smells of foliage, earth, and other hikers and their belongings.

What is it that draws people to the Appalachian Trail? Some seek the challenge of exchanging a **sedentary** lifestyle for one that tests their strength and will to the limit. For such people, success can be exhilarating. Carrying a fifty-pound backpack crammed with hiking **paraphernalia** while trudging with wet blistered feet up a steep hill in a heavy downpour might not seem like fun, but those who have done it say that to dwell on such times is to miss the point. Satisfaction comes from coping with whatever nature brings.

Other hikers set out to escape the **hubbub** of the city for a few days, weeks, or months of solitude in the wilderness. As they ignore minor physical discomforts, they say that they can escape **temporal** concerns and reflect upon what is essential and what is **extraneous** in their lives.

Most set out from Springer Mountain and head north, but regardless of the direction hikers travel, many say that the inner journey they experience is the most important one.

adage  
camaraderie  
contend  
extraneous  
hubbub  
meander  
odoriferous  
paraphernalia  
punctilious  
recuperate  
regale  
sedentary  
Spartan  
temporal  
wry



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.

1. Why do hikers owe a debt of gratitude to Appalachian Trail Club members?

2. Why is the actual trail longer than the distance from Springer Mountain to Mount Katahdin?

3. What are some of the things that hikers might have to **contend** with?

4. What does the term "**Spartan** shelters" suggest?

5. Why was Bill Irwin not in danger of getting lost on the trail?

6. What **adage** about dogs would describe Bill Irwin's relationship with Orient?

7. Why is "the Orient Express" described as a **wry** expression?

8. Why is it likely that "thru-hikers" would develop a special **camaraderie**?

9. What aspect of life in the city is absent from life on the Appalachian Trail?

10. What **paraphernalia** would a hiker be likely to take on a trip?





11. How are the hikers likely to spend their evenings in the shelters?

12. According to the passage, what are two reasons that people might hike the Appalachian Trail?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Since an *adage* is an old saying that has come to be accepted as true, there can be no such thing as a young or recent *adage*. Anyone using the expression "According to the old **adage**..." is being careless in the use of language.

The Gaelic phrase *ub ub ubub* was an expression of contempt that the English converted for their own use to **hubbub**, "a noisy uproar."

The early European settlers in New England gave the name *hubbub* to a game, similar to a dice game, played with bones on a tray and popular among Native Americans of the region. The name suggests that it must have been accompanied by much shouting and excitement.

The Maender River in Phrygia, now part of modern Turkey, made its way with many twists and turns on

its way to the sea. Its name became associated with anything that takes a winding course and gave us the modern English verb **meander**.

The ancient city-state Sparta was the capital of Laconia, in southern Greece. Under strict military leadership, Sparta's people were trained rigorously to endure great hardship and to lead frugal lives. (Sparta eventually defeated its rival Athens in 404 B.C.E.) The people of Laconia were noted for being sparing of speech, so they contributed not only the adjective **Spartan** to the English language, but also the word *laconic*, meaning "using few words."

