

Lesson 3

Word List

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

allude

a loəd'

v. To refer to in an indirect way (used with *to*).

"I made a mistake that night," he said, **alluding** to the way he lost his temper.

allusion *n.*

The poem "An Ancient Gesture," by Edna St. Vincent Millay, is an **allusion** to Penelope in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

consecrate

kən' sə krāt

v. 1. To set apart as holy.

Hagia Sophia, in Constantinople (today Istanbul), was **consecrated** as a church in 537 and is now a museum.

2. To dedicate to a cause; to devote.

Mother Teresa **consecrated** her life to helping Calcutta's poor.

disseminate

di səm' i nāt'

v. To scatter or spread widely.

The wind **disseminated** the spores from the milkweed pods.

dissemination *n.*

Dissemination of information about the transmission of HIV infection is essential for preventing AIDS.

dote

dōt

v. To show excessive fondness for (used with *on* or *upon*).

She **dots** on her grandson and indulges his every whim.

exhort

eg zōrt'

v. To urge strongly; to warn or appeal.

His wife **exhorted** him to ignore the urgings of the salesman at the boatyard.

exhortation *n.*

The Bhagavad-Gita, a text sacred to Hindus, contains **exhortations** for humans to do their duty.

feckless

fek' ləs

adj. Careless or irresponsible.

Pip's **feckless** ways in London left him devoid of cash.

implicate

im' pli kāt'

v. To show to be involved with something, especially something dishonest or illegal.

The defense attorney insisted that her client could not be **implicated** in the theft.

lament

lə ment'

v. To feel or express grief.

Uncountable mourners lined the streets to **lament** the 1997 death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

lamentation (or **lament**) *n.* An expression of sorrow or **grief** in the form of a poem, song, etc.

"Natalia," sung by Joan Baez, is a **lamentation** for an especially brave political prisoner in the former Czechoslovakia.

monetary

mən' ə ter' ē

adj. Of or relating to money or currency.

The basic **monetary** unit of Mexico is the peso.

pensive

pen' siv

adj. Deep in thought; dreamily thoughtful.

Lying on my back, I grew **pensive** as I watched the drifting **summer** clouds.

pomp

pāmp

n. A showy or dignified display.

The commencement exercises at major universities are usually marked by **pomp** and ceremony.

stilted

stīl' təd

adj. Artificially stiff or formal in manner.His **stilted** conversation reflected his unease at the gathering of artists in the gallery.**subjugate**

sub' jə gāt

v. To bring under control; to conquer.In the late eighteenth century, Russia **subjugated** the country of Georgia, in western Asia, and made it part of the Russian empire.**subjugation** *n.*The organization Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize for "its efforts on behalf of defending human dignity against violence and **subjugation**."**trauma**

trō' mā

n. 1. A severe bodily injury.The accident victims who suffered **trauma** were airlifted to major hospitals for emergency services.

2. Emotional shock.

Nguyen Hui survived the **trauma** of fleeing Vietnam by boat in 1979 and eventually settled in the United States.**traumatic** *adj.*Simply watching on television the devastation resulting from the bombing in Oklahoma City had a **traumatic** effect on me.**wanton**

wānt' n

adj. 1. Ignoring what is right.In refusing to remove asbestos from the ceilings, the company showed a **wanton** disregard for its employees' health and safety.

2. Excessive or unrestrained.

During the holidays, I try to avoid **wanton** eating of sweets.

3. Playful or frolicsome.

It was a pleasure to hear the **wanton** shouts of the children in the backyard.

3A 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. A **pensive** mood is one that engrosses a person in thought.

2. To **implicate** is to beg a person to do something.

3. **Pomp** is a brilliant spectacle.

4. **Subjugation** is the act of overpowering a person or group.

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5. To **consecrate** a place is to make it sacred.

6. A **stilted** manner is one that seems forced and unnatural.

7. An **allusion** is a mistaken belief.

8. **Wanton** insults are those that are wildly improper and uncontrolled.

9. A **monetary** concern is one that changes frequently.

10. To **exhort** someone is to obtain something by threatening that person.

11. A **traumatic** incident is one that has unimaginable consequences.

12. **Dissemination** is the act of distinguishing between right and wrong.

13. To **dote** on someone is to show a strong affection for that person.

14. A **feckless** person is one who doesn't take ordinary precautions.

15. A **lament** is an expression of sorrow.

3B 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.

1. **exhort**

- (a) By the third day of our journey, our supplies were _____ .
- (b) The leader of the protest march _____ his followers to be patient, but they did not heed him.
- (c) Mrs. Dalloway _____ her nephew to pass her the sugar.

2. **subjugate**

- (a) Everyone expects Levertov to _____ her opponent in tomorrow's tennis match.
- (b) I was determined not to let the difficulty of the task _____ me.
- (c) During the Civil War, the North's efforts to _____ the South were concluded at the village of Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

3. **consecrate**

- (a) In his address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, Abraham Lincoln said that the men who fought and died there had already _____ the land.
- (b) The physician Tom Dooley (1927–61) _____ his life to philanthropic work in Indochina.
- (c) Joe was sleepy and found it hard to _____ on the math problem.

4. **wanton**

- (a) He laughingly threatened revenge for their _____ practical jokes.
- (b) To keep those big dogs in that small apartment was _____ cruelty.
- (c) Maria believed in doing good by performing _____ acts of kindness.

5. **pomp**

- (a) A royal wedding is an occasion for much _____.
- (b) Thomas Jefferson was not impressed by the _____ of the French court.
- (c) These women's suits lack _____ and are appropriate for business wear.

6. **feckless**

- (a) The couple's _____ spending resulted in their decision to declare bankruptcy.
- (b) One could easily get lost in the _____ wastes of the desert.
- (c) The _____ father had failed to pay child support for over two years.

7. **implicate**

- (a) Robert could not have acted alone, but he refused to _____ his friends.
- (b) The campaign will _____ a lot of planning if it is to be a success.
- (c) She tried to _____ the sobbing child by hugging him.

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8. **pensive**

- (a) A _____ look crossed her face whenever we spoke of Cuba, the land of her birth.
 (b) It was _____ of her to go to so much trouble on my behalf.
 (c) The music's more _____ movements were played with great feeling.

3C **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. **INJURY : TRAUMA ::**

- (a) luck : skill
 (b) illness : medicine
 (c) visage : eyes
 (d) accident : calamity

2. **ADORE : DOTE ::**

- (a) attempt : succeed
 (b) lament : bewail
 (c) deduce : misunderstand
 (d) explain : implicate

3. **WANTON : RESTRAINT ::**

- (a) ignorant : awareness
 (b) pensive : thought
 (c) silent : guilt
 (d) dangerous : risk

4. **DISSEMINATE : ACCUMULATE ::**

- (a) dismay : alarm
 (b) dissent : disagree
 (c) distribute : collect
 (d) flatter : extol

5. **RARE : UBIQUITOUS ::**

- (a) feckless : reckless
 (b) intermittent : continuous
 (c) hidden : unseen
 (d) several : many

6. **PROTEIN : SUSTENANCE ::**

- (a) bricks : house
 (b) air : lungs
 (c) oil : heat
 (d) book : reader

7. **DESTITUTE : MONEY ::**

- (a) wise : wisdom
 (b) tired : sleep
 (c) funny : laughter
 (d) thirsty : hunger

8. **PLUMB : LEVEL ::**

- (a) deep : shallow
 (b) front : back
 (c) firm : wobbly
 (d) vertical : horizontal

9. **BEWAIL : MISFORTUNE ::**

- (a) ignore : knowledge
 (b) rejoice : victory
 (c) subjugate : enemy
 (d) extol : fear

10. FLAMBOYANT : DULL ::

- (a) feckless : responsible
 (b) snowy : white
 (c) pensive : thoughtful
 (d) formal : stilted

3D Images of Words

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

1. **lament**

- (a) "I can't believe that I'll never see you again," he said sadly.
 (b) In the theatrical production of the Greek myth, singers wailed over the deaths of Medea's children.
 (c) "I'm sorry I can't give you directions," she said, "but I'm a stranger here myself."

2. **subjugate**

- (a) Sixteen minus eleven is five.
 (b) By 1224, Genghis Khan had extended his empire over most of Asia.
 (c) Lena always puts herself first.

3. **allusion**

- (a) Natasha's unfailing optimism prompted her negative cousin to call her a Pollyanna.
 (b) Her parents named her Simone after her grandmother.
 (c) His reputation for being stingy earned him the nickname of Scrooge.

4. **monetary**

- (a) A fifty-dollar reward was offered to anyone who could find the lost dog.
 (b) The actions of the Federal Reserve System affect interest rates in the United States.
 (c) The dollar rose in value against the German mark and the Japanese yen.

5. **trauma**

- (a) Many Vietnam veterans have emotional problems as a result of their experiences in the war.
 (b) The motorcyclist suffered severe head injuries in the accident.
 (c) Little Tomás started screaming when he dropped his ice cream cone.

6. **exhortation**

- (a) Her fans cheered wildly when tennis player Steffi Graf won Wimbledon.
 (b) Get a good night's rest before taking the SATs.
 (c) Mother lost count of the times she asked Nigel to clean up his room.

allude
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 dote
 exhort
 feckless
 implicate
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 pensive
 pomp
 stilted
 subjugate
 trauma
 wanton

7. **stilted**

- (a) "I must request of you that you cease trespassing upon my property," said the landholder.
- (b) "Chill out," drawled Becky to her angry sister.
- (c) Are you familiar with the line "Hark! The meadowlark doth greet the morn"?

8. **disseminate**

- (a) The boys fled in all directions when they saw Mr. Garroway approaching.
- (b) Every home in Miami Dade County, Florida, received a "Hurricane Information" package.
- (c) Banned literature was circulated in communist Russia in a system called *samizdat*.

9. **consecrate**

- (a) The parlor of the guest house was used as a reading room.
- (b) Art's first job was stockboy in a warehouse.
- (c) Melissa kept a daily record of personal events in a closely guarded journal.

10. **dote**

- (a) Walter plays with his Krime Kruncher video game for hours at a time.
- (b) "Oh, I think Rachel's the best girl in the world!" said Aunt Penny.
- (c) Jacob could do no wrong in his grandparents' eyes.

3E Passage

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

Chile's First Lady of Letters

By order of the government, the country went into three days of mourning. All schools and official buildings were closed. Flags were lowered to half-mast. Was the nation **lamenting** the passing of a president or a famous general? No. The person whose death was being marked with such **pomp** was a poet. The country was Chile; the year was 1957; and the poet was Gabriela Mistral, born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga sixty-eight years earlier.

Lucila grew up in Chile's Valley of Elqui, a place she **alludes** to frequently in her poems as an earthly paradise of vineyards, fig orchards, and green hills. Her father **doted** on his child, making a garden for Lucila and listening with delight as she talked to the flowers, birds, and insects. But his **feckless** ways and frequent absences caused quarrels between Lucila's parents, and when the little girl was three, her father disappeared from her life forever. Friends remember her as a solitary child whose **pensive** ways cut her off from companionship. She compensated for this by creating a rich interior world for herself, and by the age of eleven was writing her first poems.

When she was a young woman, two unhappy love affairs brought **trauma** to Lucila's life. In one case, the young man committed suicide after being **implicated** in a crime; in the other, a woman from a wealthy Santiago family abruptly replaced Lucila in the affections of the man she had hoped to marry. Believing that marriage and motherhood were not in her future, she **consecrated** her life to teaching, a calling she held in the highest regard, and writing poetry. Taking the pen name Gabriela Mistral, she poured her grief into her poetry: "Though you creep to the corners of the earth to kiss her, you will see my tearstained face."

Hers was a fresh voice, sometimes direct, even harsh; other times it was tender and wistful, offering quite a contrast to the often **stilted** language of some of her contemporaries. In 1922, Mistral received international recognition with the publication of *Desolación* [*Desolation*], a volume of poetry pervaded by a sense of suffering

and lost love, and with scorn for indifference to pain and excessive emphasis on materialism. Mistral used her new-found celebrity to **disseminate** her views on education, which began appearing in newspapers and journals throughout the Americas. An invitation to visit Mexico to advise leaders there on educational reform, and an appointment as “consul for life” for the Chilean government began Mistral’s life of travel. The salary she received from her official position enabled her to pursue her literary and educational activities free of **monetary** worries.

Whatever her activity, concern for children, nature, and the downtrodden filled her mind. Her second book, *Ternura* [*Tenderness*], contains many children’s songs and verses that reflect her study of folk verse, nursery rhymes, and lullabies. Next came *Tala* [*The Felling of Trees*], a reference to the **wanton** destruction of Chile’s forests by greedy timber barons. She assigned the proceeds from *Tala* to the relief of children orphaned by the Spanish Civil War after her **exhortations** to the countries of South America to take in refugees from Spain went unheeded. In 1945, Gabriela Mistral was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, the first Latina writer to be so honored. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her thanks on behalf of writers of “the southern hemisphere of the American continent, so little and so poorly known.”

Now a world figure, Mistral traveled extensively in Europe and throughout the Americas, teaching, writing, and speaking out in public on behalf of the world’s children who were denied education and forced to work in appalling conditions for low wages. Unhappy about the **subjugation** of women in much of the world, she served on the United Nations committee on the Status of Women. At the same time, she expressed “highest admiration” for the achievements of women of the United States and lived there for a time. She was staying with friends on Long Island when she died on January 10, 1957.

In Santiago, the honor guard at Gabriela Mistral’s funeral was composed of four hundred children—a procession appropriate for a woman whose heart adopted the children of the whole world and celebrated them in her poetry: “Rivers are circles of children/Running off to the sea as they play/Waves are circlets of little girls/Embracing the world as they play.”

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. What contradiction do you see in the way Mistral’s father treated her?

2. How did the **traumas** of Mistral’s childhood and early adulthood influence the direction of her life?

3. Why did Mistral’s poems seem revolutionary at the time she wrote them?

4. How do you know that the Valley of Elqui, where Mistral grew up, had a long-lasting effect on her?

5. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Mistral as a **wanton** child?

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6. Whom did Mistral **implicate** in her collection of poems, *Tala*?
7. How do we know that Mistral's writing was not motivated solely by **monetary** considerations?
8. Why might Mistral have considered South American countries **feckless** in their treatment of refugees from the Spanish Civil War?
9. How did Mistral make known her views on mistreated children?
10. What problems did Mistral see afflicting women and children?
11. Why do you think so many **lamented** the death of Gabriela Mistral?
12. What part did children play in the **pomp** that attended Mistral's funeral?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Don't confuse *allude* with *elude* or *allusion* with *illusion*. *Elude* means "to avoid or escape from" (*elude* the hounds); an *illusion* is a mistaken idea (existing under the *illusion* that she would return) or a sight or image that deceives the eye. (Paintings with black and white shapes that appear to move are optical *illusions*.)

One might think that to be **feckless** is to lack "feck," an assumption that leads to the question, "What is feck?" *Feck* is an old Scottish word meaning "effect."

From this information, we can see how "ineffective" as a meaning of *feckless* makes sense.

A person using **stilted** language can be thought of as trying to raise her speech to a higher level in a way that does not come naturally to her. Such behavior can be compared to a person who raises himself above others by walking on stilts. Stilted language results in stiff, awkward expression, while walking on stilts produces stiff, awkward movement.

