

Lesson 11

Word List

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

amenity

a men' ə tē

n. 1. A feature that contributes to physical comfort.

Air conditioning is an **amenity** that many urban dwellers in the South consider essential.

2. A feature that increases the attractiveness or value of a location.

The freshwater lake on the edge of town was an **amenity** all the residents enjoyed.

amenities *n. pl.* Acts of social courtesy.

The company president did not waste time on **amenities**, but told the employees immediately how serious the sales situation was.

averse

ə vɜrs'

adj. Having a feeling of opposition or distaste.

My parents are **averse** to our watching television while we eat dinner.

aversion *n.*

Helene's **aversion** to city life led her to rent a cabin in the mountains for a year.

complacent

kəm plā' sənt

adj. So self-satisfied that one sees no need for change; unconcerned.

"I don't need to study," was Barry's **complacent** answer when reminded of tomorrow's final test.

complacency *n.*

My sister's **complacency** about her musical ability was shaken when she was not chosen for a solo in the opera.

decompose

dē kəm pōz'

v. To decay or to break down into basic elements.

If we add these kitchen scraps to the grass cuttings, over time they will **decompose** into a rich garden mulch.

defray

dē frā'

v. To supply the money for; to pay.

Our school has money in the budget to **defray** the cost of the class's trip to Plimoth Plantation.

emanate

em' ə nāt

v. To come out from a source.

As the boys crept down the basement stairs, a low humming noise **emanated** from the furnace.

envisage

en viz' ij

v. To picture in one's mind, to imagine something in the future.

Few of the colonists or Native Americans living in New England in the 1600s could have **envisaged** that the forests surrounding them would be gone within a few hundred years.

facetious

fə sē' shəs

adj. Playfully or inappropriately humorous.

Linda claims she was just being **facetious** when she asked if your new ring was a prize from the bubble gum machine.

fallacy

fal' ə sē

n. A false or mistaken idea.

Uncle Walter argues that it is a **fallacy** to think that the federal government is less efficient than state governments.

fallacious *adj.*

Mayor Thompson's argument for using school vouchers is persuasive, but it's based on a **fallacious** assertion.

furor

fyoor' ôr

n. An uproar; a state of great anger or excitement.

When the surprise witness for the prosecution turned out to be the best friend of the accused, the courtroom was thrown into a **furor**.

idyll

īˈdæl

n. An episode or experience that is calm and carefree.

Our summer **idyll** ended when the boat came to take us off the island.

idyllic *adj.*

The veranda, bordered by trees and overlooking the beach, was an **idyllic** spot for our summer luncheon.

paucity

pɑːˈsəti

n. Scarcity; smallness in number or amount.

The **paucity** of the harvest became very clear when we looked at the half-empty corn crib.

porous

pɔːrəs

adj. Full of tiny holes or spaces; easily penetrated by gas or liquid.

The amount of clay in the soil of our yard prevents it from being very **porous**, so rainwater often accumulates in large pools.

supersede

səˈpɜːsɪd

v. To replace; to cause to be set aside because of superiority.

By the 1960s, airplanes had **superseded** ships as the most common means for long-distance travel.

tangible

ˈtæŋɡjəbəl

adj. 1. Real; able to be touched.

The curator pointed to a small stamp on the bottom of the vase as **tangible** proof of its antiquity.

2. Possible to understand or realize; not vague or uncertain.

A **tangible** benefit of the insurance policy is that it cannot be canceled for any reason.

11A Understanding Meanings

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

1. To **envisage** something is to have it in the mind.

2. A **facetious** comment is one that is made in the heat of anger.

3. A **porous** substance is one that flows and can be easily poured.

4. To **supersede** something is to take it back or recover it.

5. A **tangible** result is one that is certain or definite.

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- averse
- complacent
- decompose
- defray
- emanate
- envisage
- facetious
- fallacy
- furor
- idyll
- paucity
- porous
- supercede
- tangible

6. An **amenity** is a feud or struggle between groups or individuals.

7. A **paucity** of something is a shortage of it.

8. A **complacent** person is one who sees no room for self-improvement.

9. A **furor** is a person who wields absolute power.

10. An **aversion** is a roundabout way of doing something.

11. An **idyll** is a person one greatly admires.

12. A **fallacy** is an incorrect idea.

13. To **decompose** is to become upset.

14. To **emanate** from somewhere is to come from that place.

15. To **defray** the cost of something is to provide the money for it.

11B 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. facetious

- (a) Mark's _____ remarks make him unpopular and impossible to take seriously.
- (b) This cream feels extremely _____ when you apply it to the skin.
- (c) Monique gave me a _____ smile as she explained the practical joke.

2. defray

- (a) Greg attempted to _____ the company of \$10,000 by falsifying the accounts.
- (b) The state has agreed to _____ the costs of providing nursing-home care.
- (c) Did you notice that the living-room rug has begun to _____ around the edges?

3. porous

- (a) Sandy soil is extremely _____, so you must water the plants frequently.
- (b) If the skin were not _____, we would not be able to perspire.
- (c) Water becomes more _____ as it is heated, eventually becoming vapor.

4. decompose

- (a) Dinosaur skeletons did not _____ even after sixty-million years.
- (b) Before we could repair the engine, we had to _____ it.
- (c) Animal flesh becomes odoriferous as it begins to _____.

5. amenity

- (a) We had the old _____ removed and a new one installed.
- (b) The hotel offers every _____, including free room service and pet care.
- (c) The village's sole _____ is a general store with an attached gas station.

6. emanate

- (a) Most of the criticism of the company seems to _____ from employees who were fired.
- (b) The strong fragrance _____ from the honeysuckle and the roses.
- (c) When will the next train for Philadelphia _____ from track four?

7. complacent

- (a) With our team leading by just two points, we couldn't afford to be _____.
- (b) Scarcely a ripple disturbed the _____ surface of the lake.
- (c) Secure in its borders and very prosperous, the country grew _____.

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8. envisage

- (a) Can you _____ how the various parts of the machine will fit together?
 (b) When she married Tom, Kate did not _____ having twelve children.
 (c) The sleeping child _____ a magical world.

11C 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. COMMISERATE : SYMPATHY ::

- (a) speculate : luck
 (b) venerate : respect
 (c) solicit : help
 (d) recover : health

2. AMPUTATE : LIMB ::

- (a) cut : finger
 (b) plant : tree
 (c) prune : branch
 (d) defray : cost

3. PLEASANT : IDYLIC ::

- (a) rare : ubiquitous
 (b) distance : remote
 (c) careful : punctilious
 (d) payment : gratis

4. BENEFICIARY : RECEIVE ::

- (a) flow : emanate
 (b) secret : divulge
 (c) fallacy : believe
 (d) donor : give

5. GARNER : DISSEMINATE ::

- (a) sparkle : scintillate
 (b) envisage : emanate
 (c) decompose : repose
 (d) collect : distribute

6. TANGIBLE : TOUCH ::

- (a) solid : melt
 (b) tacit : speak
 (c) visible : see
 (d) liquid : flow

7. MYRIAD : NUMBER ::

- (a) vast : size
 (b) practicable : purpose
 (c) complacent : attitude
 (d) ancient : antiquity

8. FACET : GEM ::

- (a) weight : diamond
 (b) volume : sphere
 (c) quality : value
 (d) side : cube

9. DEPRECIATE : BELITTLE ::

- (a) censure : reward
 (b) solicit : donate
 (c) extol : praise
 (d) scorn : venerate

10. FALLACY : ERRONEOUS ::

- (a) ingrate : grateful (c) beneficiary : beneficial
 (b) visage : stern (d) cliché : trite

11D 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. **aversion**

- (a) We took a roundabout route because the road through Bristol was closed.
 (b) When served a slice of pork roast, Nazneen refused to eat it.
 (c) I move as far away as possible from any smokers in a public place.

2. **facetious**

- (a) The coach handed his star hitter a baseball bat and said to hold it by the skinny end.
 (b) The doctor told Chuck he should exercise more regularly.
 (c) The motorbike skidded on a patch of ice and went out of control.

3. **idyll**

- (a) In the letter, Natalie describes her relaxing month at a seaside village in Maine.
 (b) Jonathan sat on a bench, watching the rest of us picking up litter.
 (c) It took four hours of difficult climbing to reach the peak of Mt. Belvedere.

4. **furor**

- (a) After their teammate was tripped, the other hockey players found it difficult to control their anger.
 (b) The company's announcement of heavy losses for the quarter sent the stock exchange into a frenzy of activity.
 (c) His legs going like pistons, Wylie broke the record for the 100-meter race.

5. **supersede**

- (a) Maria was put in charge of the assembly line's fifty workers.
 (b) Upon Queen Victoria's death, her son ascended the throne as Edward VII.
 (c) Fuel injection has made the automobile carburetor a thing of the past.

6. **envisage**

- (a) Lincoln imagined that the freed slaves could be settled outside the United States.
 (b) Lena apologized for dropping by without calling first and said she hoped she wasn't disturbing us.
 (c) In her book, the author claims that a world without war or hunger is feasible.

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7. **tangible**

- (a) A letter with the defendant's fingerprints on it was introduced into evidence.
- (b) The increase in the stock price gave Anne a profit of \$6,000.
- (c) Clyde's affairs were so muddled that it took a team of lawyers to sort them out.

8. **paucity**

- (a) Rhode Island, the smallest of the fifty states, has an area of 1,214 square miles.
- (b) The choir's choices are limited because it has fewer than a dozen male voices.
- (c) My blueberry muffin contained exactly four blueberries.

9. **amenities**

- (a) The meeting began with bows, handshakes, and greetings in two languages.
- (b) The dessert tray contained French pastries and other delicacies.
- (c) The hotel supplied us with fluffy terrycloth bathrobes and a variety of expensive toiletries.

10. **fallacy**

- (a) Mary accused me of cheating on the test.
- (b) There is no truth to the belief that the death penalty deters murder.
- (c) Barb mistakenly believes that Miami is the capital of Florida.

11E Passage

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

“Mount Trashmore”

There was a time when we, as a society, had no need to be concerned about garbage disposal. People were more frugal and less inclined to throw away uneaten food; in addition, few commonly used items came in bottles, cans, or cardboard boxes. The small amounts of garbage that were produced in those days ended up in the town dump. Understandably, people were **averse** to living close to such places, from which unpleasant smells **emanated** and in which rats resided. Fortunately, when land was plentiful and the population was smaller than it is today, no one had to.

As the country's population grew, it produced garbage in greater and greater quantities. Packaging became more elaborate, and we became more wasteful, making it necessary to find new ways to dispose of vast amounts of garbage. We could no longer afford to be **complacent** about garbage disposal. While recycling cans, bottles, plastic containers, and paper products has helped, it takes care of only part of the problem.

One of the major changes has been the closing of the old town dumps. They are being **superseded** by large, carefully managed landfills, a hundred acres or more in size, that receive garbage from over a wide area. The world's largest landfill was located on Staten Island and served the city of New York. It took in over ten thousand tons of solid waste a day, covered three thousand acres, and rose to a height of five hundred feet. At its inception in 1948, engineers **envisaged** it would have a life of five years. When it closed in March 2001, it had lasted over fifty years. Landfills of this size require careful management. Because the ground on which they are located is usually **porous**, it is important to protect the ground water beneath it. This is accomplished by laying down a lining of strong plastic or tightly packed clay to act as a barrier. Another consideration is how to handle the methane gas that is created as organic wastes such as food scraps and leaves break down. A common solution is to collect and process this gas in order to sell it as fuel. These sales can help **defray** the cost of running the landfill.

Anyone who thinks such a landfill must be an eyesore should pay a visit to the Riverview Highlands Ski Resort, south of Detroit. This two-hundred-foot-high hill has eight slopes, including one for expert skiers, and several lifts. Local residents refer affectionately to their resort as "Mount Trashmore." There is a good reason for this. Although visitors find it hard to believe, this **idyllic** spot was once a mountain of garbage. As it grew, workers added layers of soil so that the trash remained buried. When it was complete, the hill was grassed over, and today the local residents are delighted to have such an **amenity** in their area.

Many people worry that we are running out of sites for landfills. Scientists who study the problem offer assurances that this is a **fallacy**; they say that there is no shortage of such places, nor is there likely to be in the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, new challenges arise periodically. In the 1980s, for example, a **furor** erupted in the press and on television over styrofoam packaging used in the fast-food industry. Those concerned about the environment claimed that this material was a major problem at landfills because it does not **decompose** over time. Fast-food company executives, anxious to protect their image as responsible citizens, responded by ordering a switch to paper products. However, some scientists think paper lasts as long as plastic.

We know so much about garbage and its disposal because of data gathered through the Garbage Project, begun at the University of Arizona in 1973. Researchers knew that there was a **paucity** of accurate information on the subject. Over the years, at various sites around the country, some 750 people attired in lab coats, rubber gloves, and surgical masks, have sifted through hundreds of thousands of pounds of garbage, separating it into two hundred different categories.

Just as ancient garbage heaps called *middens* provide archaeologists with **tangible** evidence of the daily lives of the people who made them, so landfills present researchers of the Garbage Project with valuable information about the lives and habits of today's people. Referring to themselves **facetiously** as "garbageologists," these scientists not only provide us with knowledge about the present but also enable us to plan sensibly for the future.

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 were town dumps not **idyllic** spots?

2. What **tangible** benefit can modern landfills offer?

3. How is methane gas produced at landfills?

4. Why are town dumps much less common now than ten years ago?

5. How did the fast-food industry demonstrate that it was not **complacent**?

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6. What mistaken idea do some people have regarding sites for landfills?
7. In the past, what would have been the likely consequence of locating a town dump near a residential area?
8. Why do you think there is no **paucity** of space for future landfills?
9. What vision did the designers of "Mount Trashmore" have for the area?
10. Why would an area with clay soil be a good spot for a landfill?
11. How do local residents refer to the Riverview Highlands Ski Resort?
12. Where does the data concerning landfills come from?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Two words sometimes confused are **averse** and **adverse**. Perhaps this is because both are adjectives, both can take the preposition *to*, and both suggest negative qualities. In addition, the spelling of these two words is almost identical. *Averse* means "unwilling" or "reluctant." *Adverse* means "unhelpful" or "harmful." (Many people are now *averse* to

sunbathing because they know that ultraviolet rays have an *adverse* effect on their health.)

What a difference a prefix makes! To **decompose** is to decay; to *discompose* is to make people feel ill at ease by causing them to lose their calm. A synonym of *discompose* is *perturb*.