

Lesson 14

Word List

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

amass

ə mas'

v. To gather or collect for one's use or profit; to accumulate.

Karen's aptitude for business enabled her to **amass** a small fortune before she was thirty.

articulate

är tik' yoo lä't'

v. 1. To pronounce distinctly.

Children usually can **articulate** words before they are two years old.

2. To express one's thoughts, feelings, or beliefs in words.

In this essay, I have tried to **articulate** my view of the novel *Jane Eyre*.

adj. (är tik' yoo lä't'). Able to speak in clear and effective language.

Winston Churchill's slight speech impediment did not prevent him from being a very **articulate** public speaker.

decimate

des' ə māt

v. To kill or destroy a large portion of a group.

Cholera swept through the town, **decimating** the population.

dexterous

dek' stər əs

adj. Skillful in the use of hands or mind.

Her **dexterous** handling of the horse won her a blue ribbon.

dexterity n. (dek stər' ə tē)

Repairing the fishing nets would require a **dexterity** that Franklin lacked.

garb

gärb

n. A style of clothing; costume.

Queen Victoria's black **garb** and solemn demeanor were constant reminders of her widow's state.

v. To clothe or dress.

The old photos showed nomadic people of Turkistan **garbed** in intricately patterned robes.

gregarious

grə ger' ē əs

adj. Enjoying the company of others; sociable.

A **gregarious** nature is a boon for anyone seeking a political career.

inherent

in hir' ənt

adj. Existing as a natural part of something.

Believing her shyness is **inherent**, Roseanne does nothing to try to overcome it.

maternal

mə tər' nəl

adj. 1. Motherly.

Ranji's **maternal** feelings were aroused when she saw a child standing alone weeping at the bus stop.

2. Related to or inherited through one's mother.

My **maternal** grandparents had two children, my mother and my uncle Bill.

nurture

nər' chər

v. To care for and give sustenance to.

Parents **nurture** their children physically, mentally, and psychologically.

n. The process of raising one's young.

Both male and female emperor penguins provide **nurture** for their young chicks.

obtrusive

əb trə' sɪv

adj. 1. Tending to push oneself forward in an unwelcome manner.

The reporters at the house were so **obtrusive** that Belle slammed the door in their face.

2. Noticeable in an undesirable way.

Dressed in jeans, we felt **obtrusive** as we entered the small, elegant restaurant.

parody
per' ə dē

v. To imitate the style of someone or something in order to make fun of it.

The film *Bad Guys in Black Hats* **parodies** western movies of the 1930s.

n. An imitation that exaggerates for comic effect.

His **parody** of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" that began, "I believe it was about eighty years ago ..." showed poor taste.

pugnacious
pug nā' shəs

adj. Aggressive; eager to fight or quarrel.

The **pugnacious** basketball player challenged the referee with insulting words.

pugnacity n. (pug nas' ə tē)

He showed his **pugnacity** by clenching his fists.

reprehensible
rep' rē hen' sə bəl

adj. Deserving blame or rebuke.

Denying sustenance to those in need is **reprehensible**.

tractable
trak' tə bəl

adj. Easily managed or controlled.

The stable manager gave Jennifer a **tractable** horse when she first began riding.

zany
zā' nē

adj. Comical because of strangeness; clownish.

The **zany** illustrations make the book very popular.

14A 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 **gregarious** person is one given to sudden mood changes.

2. **Maternal** affection is like that shown by a mother to her children.

3. A **zany** outfit is noticeable for its somber colors.

4. To **amass** wealth is to acquire it in large amounts.

5. **Dexterity** is a state of indifference to one's surroundings.

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zany

6. A **tractable** creature is one that is easily guided.

7. To **articulate** ideas is to express them clearly.

8. To **parody** something is to evade it.

9. A **pugnacious** person is one who goes looking for a fight.

10. To **decimate** an army is to divide it into ten equal units.

11. To act in an **obtrusive** manner is to be compulsive in behavior.

12. To **garb** someone is to pull at that person's clothes.

13. A **reprehensible** statement is one that is difficult to understand.

14. To **nurture** a project is to watch over it to see that it grows and develops.

15. An **inherent** virtue is one that is barely noticeable.

14B 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. obtrusive

- (a) The noise of the children's voices was so _____ that I was unable to read my book.
 (b) Our neighbors are less _____ now that we have a lock on the gate.
 (c) The answer was so _____ that I didn't even have to think about it.

2. reprehensible

- (a) Such _____ behavior will not go unpunished.
 (b) Cutting pages from library books is _____ .
 (c) Her handwriting is so bad that it is barely _____ .

3. decimate

- (a) If you _____ $\frac{3}{4}$, you get 0.75.
 (b) The only way to _____ weeds is to pull them up by the roots.
 (c) The unusual virus _____ the population of the city.

4. amass

- (a) See how the birds _____ in the trees before flying south.
 (b) She will _____ all the necessary information before writing the report.
 (c) The reporter _____ a large amount of information, but much of it he wouldn't use in the article.

5. garb

- (a) Deena's customary _____ was a T-shirt and jeans.
 (b) Robin Hood's merry men were _____ in forest green.
 (c) She took a black silk _____ from the rack and held it against herself.

6. articulate

- (a) One expects members of a college debating team to be _____ .
 (b) The parrot could _____ a few French words.
 (c) At the conference, the scientist _____ her views on climate change.

7. zany

- (a) The book describes in detail the _____ world of the Marx Brothers.
 (b) The _____ movies featuring the Three Stooges made millions laugh.
 (c) Whose _____ idea was it to use an air horn to scare off the birds?

amass
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 gregarious
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 nurture
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 parody
 pugnacious
 reprehensible
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8. nurture

- (a) Good teachers try to _____ each student's abilities.
- (b) These are matters of a personal _____ that I discuss only with my doctor.
- (c) Classes dealing with the proper _____ of infants are held every Monday evening.

14C Word Study

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

1. reprehensible	useful		
gregarious	blameless	S	A
2. acquire	amass		
traverse	nurture	S	A
3. fashion	solace		
skill	vogue	S	A
4. gregarious	inherent		
solitary	practicable	S	A
5. adversity	faculty		
dexterity	misfortune	S	A
6. untoward	advanced		
precocious	similar	S	A
7. pernicious	harmless		
pensive	helpless	S	A
8. pariah	prodigy		
proffer	offer	S	A
9. quandary	trepidation		
blandishment	confidence	S	A
10. discomfit	embarrass		
deprecate	defray	S	A

14D 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. **dexterous**

- (a) Josie usually solves the *Times* crossword puzzle in fifteen minutes.
- (b) Charlie could juggle five balls at the same time.
- (c) I can read a car license plate from fifty feet.

2. **nurture**

- (a) The house was strong enough to withstand hurricanes with 120 mph winds.
- (b) Elizabeth Taylor starred in *National Velvet* at the age of twelve.
- (c) Macaws and cockatoos are noted for their longevity and their ability to mimic speech.

3. **pugnacity**

- (a) "What do you think you are doing?" he interrupted boldly.
- (b) "Do you need help?" he asked kindly.
- (c) "I couldn't care less," he drawled apathetically.

4. **decimate**

- (a) In the 1980s, deaths from AIDS were especially numerous in San Francisco and New York City.
- (b) During the Allied invasion of Normandy, the first wave of troops took extremely heavy casualties.
- (c) I cut the pizza into ten slices and gave one to each child.

5. **gregarious**

- (a) The campers in the next tent invited us to join in their sing-along.
- (b) When Sammy got the measles, his sister knew she would get the disease, too.
- (c) The Robinsons seem to know just about everyone in town.

6. **articulate**

- (a) The deadline to register for second semester is next Monday.
- (b) "Now . . . do . . . you . . . understand?" he asked, stressing every syllable.
- (c) The Surgeon General's views on smoking have been expressed many times.

7. **inherent**

- (a) When my grandmother died, she left me her beautiful antique jewelry.
- (b) It is foolish to complain that lemons are sour.
- (c) People often say my smile is the same as my mother's.

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8. **tractable**

- (a) The farmer hoped for a good harvest so he could use some of the profits to purchase modern machinery.
- (b) Simon can do a very good sketch in less than a minute.
- (c) Once children get past the “terrible twos,” they are more agreeable.

9. **parody**

- (a) What a wonderful view of the valley you have from this window!
- (b) The audience laughed hilariously at the Miami Players’ “Five-Minute Macbeth.”
- (c) The revised sonnet begins, “Shall I compare thee to a ripe tomato?”

10. **maternal**

- (a) My mother comes from a large family, so I have many aunts and uncles.
- (b) Holding the baby stirred Alice’s memories of her own children, now grown up.
- (c) Strong leadership marked the reign of Elizabeth I.

14E Passage

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

Close Relatives

The image of the chimpanzee some of us may have is that of a creature who can make us laugh at what seems a comical **parody** of human behavior. We may even have seen chimps on television or in the circus, often in human **garb**, performing as they have been trained, amusing the audience with their **zany** antics.

Chimpanzees are not **inherently** comical. In fact, they are strong, highly intelligent, lively primates, members of the order of mammals that includes humans as well as apes. They are more like human beings—in their genes, their body and brain structure, and the way their organs work—than are any other living beings. Research has shown that our human gene code differs from that of chimpanzees by less than two percent: more than ninety-eight percent of our genes are the same. Chimpanzees are capable of reasoning, of abstraction, and of other intellectual processes that we used to think only humans possessed. Chimpanzees have language capability, even though they cannot **articulate** human speech. A young chimp is able to make at least thirty-two different sounds, and its face can express a wide range of emotions. **Tractable** animals, they have learned to communicate using American Sign Language or computer keyboards.

Chimpanzees also have emotions similar to ours. They, too, experience happiness and sadness, fear and anxiety. They have a sense of humor, and develop close friendships with other individuals; they become distressed if separated from a companion and grieve if one dies.

Found mostly in the tropical forests and grasslands of Africa, they are **gregarious** creatures, and live in highly organized communities of from fifteen to eighty adult males, females, infants, and partly grown young. The average size of a chimpanzee is about 4 ½ feet tall with a weight of about 120 pounds. They have long arms and short legs, large ears, abundant brown or black hair, and often a white area around the mouth. Unlike monkeys, they have no tail. They live both high up in the trees and on the ground. In the trees, where most feeding takes place, they swing from branch to branch; when on the ground, although they are able to walk erect, they usually walk on all fours, using the knuckles of their hands. Young chimpanzees are playful and affectionate; adults are extremely powerful—much more powerful than people—and can be **pugnacious** if taken from their natural habitat into captivity.

Males and females cooperate in providing and sharing food. Although their diet is mainly vegetarian, chimpanzees also eat meat. Males form hunting parties to stalk smaller mammals such as monkeys, young baboons, and bush pigs. Because the females have strong **maternal** instincts and **nurture** their young for as long as four years, their ability to join in the hunt is restricted. Instead, they gather food, collecting fruit, plants, insects, and birds' eggs. Being especially **dexterous**, chimpanzees are able to make the tools they need. Females, for example, strip long twigs and poke them through holes in termite hills. When they carefully withdraw the stick, termites are clinging to it; these can then be removed and eaten.

Much of what we know about chimpanzees comes from the work of the English anthropologist Jane Goodall. She has been studying chimpanzees' behavior in the central African country of Tanzania since 1960. By living among them as **unobtrusively** as possible, she has been able to observe and record their activities. Over several decades she has **amassed** a vast amount of information while campaigning in their behalf. In 1968 she persuaded the Tanzanian government to establish Gombe National Park as a chimpanzee sanctuary and research center.

In recent years, Africa's chimpanzee population has been **decimated**. Their numbers have been reduced by such **reprehensible** practices as illegal hunting and the destruction of the tropical rain forest by logging or farming. They are also subject to capture for use in zoos and research laboratories. They are now an endangered species.

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 would chimpanzees be clad in human **garb**?

2. How can a chimpanzee's behavior change if it is captured and taken from its habitat?

3. In what ways are humans and chimpanzees **inherently** the same?

4. In your opinion, is destroying chimpanzee habitats for logging or farming **reprehensible**?

5. How do female chimpanzees demonstrate **maternal** instincts?

6. Why do chimpanzees in the wild live in groups?

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7. According to the passage, what contribution has Jane Goodall made?

8. What significant difference is there between chimpanzees and humans?

9. How has their dexterity and the fact that they are **tractable** animals allowed chimpanzees to communicate with humans?

10. Why is the chimpanzee in danger of extinction if present trends continue?

11. How was Goodall able to gather so much information?

12. Would you find the behavior of performing chimpanzees **zany**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Latin *decimus* means “one tenth” and forms the root of *decimal* (a number written using the base of ten) and *decimeter* (a unit of length equal to one tenth of a meter). The verb **decimate** has the same root and offers a glimpse into Roman history. A legion that mutinied or showed cowardice in the face of the enemy could be **decimated** as a punishment. One person out of ten, chosen by lot, would be executed. The word retains its original meaning but has become less precise. It is possible to speak of an army being *decimated* in battle even though it lost more than (though probably not less than) one tenth of its strength.

In Lesson 8, you learned that *adroit* means “skillful” and comes from the French *a droit*, which means “to

the right.” The idea that the right side is superior to the left goes back to Roman times, when priests regarded signs from the left as foretelling misfortune. **Dexterous** has a similar meaning to *adroit* and comes from the Latin *dexter*, “on the right side.” In medieval times, heraldic shields were divided between left and right. The side on the bearer’s right was the *dexter* side; that on the bearer’s left was the *sinister* side, from the Latin *sinister*, “on the left.”

The Latin *greg* means “herd” or “flock” and forms the root of *congregate*, “to come together as a group,” and *segregate*, “to separate from others.” The adjective **gregarious** is formed from the same root. A *gregarious* person likes to be with a group, enjoying the company of others.