

Lesson 18

Word List

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

adhere

ad hir'

v. 1. To stick to; stay attached.

I had to use tape to make sure the stamp **adhered** to the envelope.

2. To follow closely or faithfully.

Millions of people in India still **adhere** to the nonviolent principles of Gandhi, the Hindu leader who died in 1948.

adherence *n.*

The Amish are a sect that are known for their **adherence** to a simple lifestyle that rejects cars, for example, preferring horses and carriages.

adherent *n.* A follower or supporter of an idea.

The proposal to eliminate the theater program has few **adherents**, so Mr. Speca is averse to going ahead with it.

aplomb

ə plām'

n. Complete self-confidence and poise.

Although she was nervous, the thirteen-year-old gymnast shook hands with the president with the **aplomb** of a diplomat.

brandish

brān' dish

v. To shake or wave in a threatening way.

Even though she would never hurt her little brother, Katharine would **brandish** her fist at him in an attempt to intimidate him.

broach

brōch

v. To bring up for discussion; to begin to talk about.

Rosa decided to wait until after dinner to **broach** the subject of an increase in her allowance.

devotee

dev ə tā'

n. An ardent follower, supporter, or enthusiast.

Julius is a **devotee** of Gilbert and Sullivan; his favorite operetta is "Ruddigore."

diffident

dif' i dənt

adj. Unsure of oneself; shy.

Even though he was a world-renowned pianist, Rudolf Serkin had a **diffident** manner.

diffidence *n.*

When he walked onto the stage, his shy smile and head tilted to one side testified to his **diffidence**.

extravaganza

ek strāv' ə gan' zə

n. An elaborate and spectacular display or event.

The opening ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, was an **extravaganza** watched on television by millions all over the world.

integrity

in teg' rə tē

n. 1. Honesty; trustworthiness.

People may not have agreed with the governor's political views, but no one questioned her **integrity**.

2. The condition of being whole or complete.

My English teacher disapproves of rewriting a published book to make it easier to read because he says it violates the **integrity** of the work.

plaintive

plān' tiv

adj. Expressing sorrow; mournful.

We finally brought in the dog because his **plaintive** whining was making us feel bad.

plaudit
plôd' ət

n. (usually plural) A demonstration of strong approval or praise.

The ice skater Nancy Kerrigan raised her arms and bowed slightly to acknowledge the **plaudits** of the crowd.

regalia
ri gāl' yə

n. pl. The symbols, objects, or special costumes worn by or associated with a group.

The guards at Buckingham Palace, in London, are in full **regalia** as they march back and forth.

resplendent
rē splen' dənt

adj. Dazzling in appearance.

My grandmother was **resplendent** in a dress of burgundy velvet at her ninetieth birthday party.

subordinate
sə bôrd' n ət

adj. Less important; secondary.

The actress Emma Thompson said she would willingly take a **subordinate** role in a play if she found the character interesting.

n. A person under the command or control of another.

The general had a reputation for being unusually fair and respectful to his **subordinates**.

v. (sə bôrd' n āt) To give less importance to; to place in a lesser position.

Sometimes parents have to **subordinate** their own interests to those of their children.

surmount
sər maunt

v. To defeat or overcome.

With the help of Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller was able to **surmount** devastating physical problems.

tenable
ten' ə bəl

adj. Capable of being defended or believed.

Sebastian was such an effective debater that he could argue a position that at first did not seem at all **tenable**, and then be utterly convincing.

18A 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 **broach** a topic is to introduce it into a conversation.

2. A **devotee** is a person who shuns the company of older people.

3. A person of **integrity** is someone whose word can be relied on.

4. A **tenable** position is one that is reasonable.

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5. **Plaudits** are insults hurled at someone to express displeasure.
6. To **adhere** to a surface is to stick to it.
7. To do something with **aplomb** is to do it with assurance.
8. To be **subordinate** is to be under the authority of another.
9. To **surmount** an obstacle is to avoid it completely.
10. A **diffident** manner is one that lacks conviction or confidence.
11. To be **resplendent** is to be dressed in splendid garb.
12. A **plaintive** sound is one that stays on the same level for a long time.
13. An **extravaganza** is an item that costs more than one can afford.
14. **Regalia** is the bearing of oneself with dignity.
15. To **brandish** a weapon is to wield it as if you were going to use it.

18B 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. **extravaganza**

- (a) *Phantom of the Opera* is a multimillion dollar Broadway _____.
- (b) Having five homes seems like a needless _____.
- (c) A gaudily decorated _____ led the Thanksgiving Day parade down New York's Fifth Avenue.

2. **brandish**

- (a) We _____ our arms frantically to attract the usher's attention.
- (b) The letters UCLA were _____ across the quarterback's sweatshirt.
- (c) The farmer _____ his walking stick at us and told us to stay off places that were seeded.

3. **adhere**

- (a) The wallpaper won't _____ to the wall if the paste is too powdery.
- (b) She _____ to her political beliefs even though her family strongly disagreed with her.
- (c) The president promised to _____ to his candidate for the post in spite of congressional opposition.

4. **subordinate**

- (a) In the Middle Ages, most lords were unwilling to _____ their privileges to the improvement of their serfs' lives.
- (b) Because he occupied a _____ position in the company, the intern was docile and quiet.
- (c) If a lawyer _____ perjury, she can be called before the Bar Association.

5. **broach**

- (a) The socialite thought that wearing a _____ in the shape of a dollar sign was in bad taste.
- (b) The water was pouring through a _____ in the dam.
- (c) My grandfather changed the subject just as I was about to _____ the topic of his retirement.

6. **plaudit**

- (a) The crowd waved colorful _____ as they greeted the candidate entering the hall.
- (b) The new version of Hugo's *Les Misérables* garnered _____ from many theater critics.
- (c) The only _____ I received after I gave my report was a note from the librarian asking me to return my books.

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7. resplendent

- (a) The Senegalese choir was _____ in brightly patterned, intricately laced robes.
 (b) My grandparents had a _____ time in Disney World, staying for almost a week.
 (c) The waitress beamed when she saw the _____ tip Elena left.

8. tenable

- (a) The general withdrew from the battle when he saw his position was no longer _____.
 (b) Ruby thinks so quickly on her feet that she can make any position seem _____.
 (c) The warranty on my new car is _____ for five years or fifty thousand miles.

18C 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. detach	enlarge		
brandish	adhere	S	A
2. diffident	vociferous		
belated	centrifugal	S	A
3. resplendent	eminent		
drab	tenuous	S	A
4. eccentric	jaded		
ribald	cynical	S	A
5. clemency	adherence		
aplomb	severity	S	A
6. plaudit	devotee		
aficionado	novice	S	A
7. momentum	indolence		
potential	verve	S	A
8. truism	recipient		
donor	exponent	S	A
9. tenuous	obsolescent		
firm	diffident	S	A
10. contravene	accentuate		
surmount	disobey	S	A

18D 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. integrity

- (a) When my mother makes you a promise, you know you can count on it.
- (b) The Roman Empire collapsed because of its own internal weaknesses.
- (c) In David Copperfield, Uriah Heep works his way from the position of clerk to partner in a law office.

2. broach

- (a) Thien couldn't stop talking about how thrilled he was to come in first in the 100-yard dash.
- (b) When the personnel manager had finished describing the job, Alison decided to bring up the issue of salary.
- (c) Ruth gasped when, after a long silence, Antonio said he was thinking of selling the store.

3. subordinate

- (a) I thought it was only polite to take the smaller of the two pieces of cake Nabil offered me.
- (b) Even though I was upset about forgetting several notes of my piece, I managed to take a bow and smile at the audience.
- (c) Prices on running shoes have been cut by twenty percent for the end-of-winter sale.

4. surmount

- (a) Despite losing a knight and a rook, Kasparov was able to win the chess match.
- (b) There is a five-dollar additional charge for overnight delivery.
- (c) Mr. Darcy was able to climb easily into the saddle and ride off.

5. aplomb

- (a) A line with a lead weight on the end shows you if the line is vertical.
- (b) I was in the audience and never suspected that Marco had forgotten his lines and was making them up.
- (c) Despite the power failure that silenced her microphone, the speaker moved closer to the audience and finished the rest of her speech.

6. diffidence

- (a) I'm not sure I deserve the award for most helpful student.
- (b) Cherest never expresses an opinion about a controversial issue until he has read all about it.
- (c) It doesn't matter to me whether we have rice or potatoes with the fish.

7. plaintive

- (a) When the Irish tenor John McCormack sang those songs of lost love it brought tears to my eyes.
- (b) The judge assigned a new young lawyer to the property dispute.
- (c) Eve asked the waiter to take back her beef because it was undercooked.

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8. **adhere**

- (a) There must have been a hundred people jammed into the hot subway car at rush hour.
- (b) Line the pan with waxed paper so the cake batter won't stick to the bottom.
- (c) Aurelia has been a devout believer in homeopathy since her persistent sore throat was cured by one of its remedies.

9. **regalia**

- (a) The Surgeon General was never seen in public without his officer's uniform and all his medals.
- (b) The sailboats were lined up at the pier for the start of the race.
- (c) We were having so much fun that we wanted the graduation party to go on forever.

10. **devotee**

- (a) Ezra has read every novel by S. E. Hinton at least six times.
- (b) When all the ballots were counted, the seven members of the school committee were reelected.
- (c) His fans were very upset by the death of the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia.

18E Passage

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

The American Indian Dance Theater

Hanay Geiogamah (Ha nāī' jē ô' ga mā) was a **devotee** of Native American Dance. A member of the Kiowa/Delaware tribe of Oklahoma, with a professional interest in theater, he believed that the dances of the American Indians, an essential part of their lives, could and should be introduced to a wider audience. He **broached** the idea of forming a Native American dance company to Barbara Schwei, a New York concert producer. She agreed with Geiogamah, and the two began traveling to competitions held at tribal gatherings throughout the western United States in order to recruit dancers.

There was some doubt at first about whether the idea was **tenable**. Many of the dancers they approached were **diffident** about becoming entertainers and performing in public. In addition, many of the dances they performed had been passed down from generation to generation and were sacred to the tribe; they could not be performed without the permission of the tribal elders. Geiogamah and Schwei managed to **surmount** these problems, and they offered reassurance that the **integrity** of the dances would be respected.

In the spring of 1987, they assembled a group of dancers in Colorado and launched the American Indian Dance Theater. The company was made up of twenty-four dancers from twenty different tribes from across the United States and Canada. The dancers varied greatly in the ways they moved, yet they performed each other's dances and sang each other's songs. The dances ranged from those of the Kwakwak'wakw peoples of the northwest coast of British Columbia to competitions between men in ornate feathered costumes or women in elegant shawls.

Within two years, the company had won **plaudits** from the critics and was being enthusiastically received throughout the country. The performers accepted their rise to fame with **aplomb**. The company went on to tour Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, South America, and Australia.

Those fortunate enough to see a performance of the American Indian Dance Theater experience an **extravaganza** of color, often whirling motion, and tribal music. In full **regalia**, the dancers are **resplendent** in colorful masks and costumes decorated with beads, feathers, fringes, and ornaments of precious metals. Company members and their families make all the elaborate masks, jewelry, and costumes themselves. Some of the materials the dancers wear have special meaning: angora goat hair, for example, used in leggings, represents surefootedness, while eagle feathers stand for power and bravery.

The eagle, believed to be a messenger between the spirit realm and humankind, is sacred to all tribes, and is featured in many of the dances. There is a stately Eagle Dance, performed by Zunis of New Mexico, and another danced by Plains Indians that acts out the bird's life cycle to the accompaniment of the **plaintive** music of a wooden flute. The Apache Crown Dance comes from another ancient tribal ceremony, in which performers **brandish** symbolic wands that heal the sick while a clown dances among them all, offering comic relief.

Geiogamah and Schwei have departed from tradition in one important respect. Women played a **subordinate** role in Native American dance, but not in the American Indian Dance Theater. Female dancers play a prominent part in the company and are featured in the colorful Butterfly, Fancy Shawl, and other dances. "The role of women has changed," Geiogamah, the artistic director explains, "and it's necessary for us to reflect the change in the flow of life." What has not changed is the company's strict **adherence** to the form and the significance of traditional Native American dances.

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 did Geiogamah **broach** the subject of starting a Native American dance company to Barbara Schwei?

2. Why might Barbara Schwei have been **diffident** about Geiogamah's idea at first?

3. Why do Geiogamah and Schwei deserve **plaudits**?

4. How was the **integrity** of the traditional Native American dances preserved?

5. What makes the show an **extravaganza**?

6. Why are American Indians **devotees** of the eagle?

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7. Why might the clowns have to dodge during the Apache Crown Dance?

8. Do you think the dancers were dismayed by the company's success?

9. What suggests that the Eagle Dance performed by the Plains Indians is sad?

10. In what important respect has the Dance Theater not **adhered** to tradition?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

A person showing **aplomb** is not easily thrown off balance, as the origin of the word suggests. *Aplomb* comes from the Latin *plumbum*, "lead." As you learned in Lesson 1, a line with a lead weight on the end is called a *plumb* line; it is not easily disturbed or moved from its position at rest because lead is such a heavy metal.

A **subordinate** clause is a grammatical term indicating the less important clause in a complex sentence. Let us suppose that Beth is five feet tall and is employed as a surgeon. If we say "Beth, who

is five feet tall, is a surgeon," the phrase "who is five feet tall" can be left out without affecting the basic meaning of the sentence. It is a *subordinate* clause.

The Latin verb *tenere* means "to hold"; it forms the root of a number of English words. A *tenacious* person is one who holds on to something and is unwilling to let go. The *tenor* of an argument or discussion is the main point that is held throughout it. Finally, a **tenable** position is one that can be held with some confidence because it is reasonable and has a solid basis.