

# Lesson 14 OK

## Word List

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

### allege

ə lej'

v. To state as a fact but without offering proof.

The police **allege** that the two teenagers took the car without permission.

**alleged** *adj.* Claimed to be true.

This is the **alleged** troublemaker.

**allegation** *n.* (al ə gā' shən) Something that is alleged.

Our neighbor claimed that my brother was the boy who broke his window, but he could not provide proof to back up his **allegation**.

### conclusive

kən klōō' sīv

*adj.* Putting an end to doubt; convincing.

The cancelled check was **conclusive** proof that the bicycle had been paid for.

### counterpart

koun' tər pärt

*n.* A person or thing that is similar to another.

The British prime minister is the **counterpart** of the American president.

### dismal

diz' mäl

*adj.* 1. Dark or extremely gloomy.

The **dismal** weather kept us inside for most of our vacation at the beach.

2. Causing misery or sadness; depressing.

The **dismal** conditions in Haiti forced many to flee their homeland.

### enthrall

en thräl'

v. To hold the attention of as though under a spell.

The acrobats on the trapeze **enthralled** the circus audience.

**enthralling** *adj.* Having the power to enthrall.

The children listened for over an hour to the storyteller's **enthralling** tales.

### exotic

eg zät' ik

*adj.* Fascinating because of being very different from the ordinary.

Rare orchids and other **exotic** flowers decorated the tables at the wedding.

### incredulous

in krej' ə ləs

*adj.* 1. Doubtful; skeptical.

The teacher was **incredulous** when the student claimed to have read the novel in two hours.

2. Showing disbelief.

My friend gave me an **incredulous** look when I said I had seen a flying saucer.

**incredulity** *n.* (in kre dyōō' lə tē) Doubt or disbelief.

My father gave me a look of **incredulity** when I said I had asked for extra homework.

### legendary

lej' ən der ē

*adj.* 1. Well-known; famous and much talked about over a long period of time.

Harriet Tubman, who led more than 300 slaves to freedom, is a **legendary** figure in American history.

2. Relating to a story (usually untrue) handed down from the past.

Paul Bunyan, the **legendary** lumberjack of fantastic size and strength, is the hero of many "tall tales."

### lurk

lurk

v. To prowl or lie hidden, as though about to attack.

The farmer frightened away the fox that **lurked** by the henhouse.

**menagerie**  
mə naj' ə r ē

*n.* A collection of animals kept in cages for showing to the public.  
The owner of the **menagerie** assured us that the animals were well cared for.

**naive**  
nā ēv'

*adj.* 1. Inexperienced; ready to accept without analyzing.  
I was **naive** to believe that sending off the coupon would win me a free vacation in Hawaii.  
2. Simple in a childlike way; innocent.  
Even though he is nine years old, he maintains a **naive** belief in the tooth fairy.

**pander**  
pan' dər

*v.* To give or promise what is wanted in order to please someone.  
I believe that she **panders** to students by giving them better grades than they deserve.

**plausible**  
plō' zə bəl

*adj.* Seeming to be true but not necessarily so.  
Lin Shao's explanation of why she was late seems **plausible**, so I'll accept it.

**preposterous**  
prē pās' tər əs

*adj.* Too absurd to be believed; ridiculous.  
You cannot believe this **preposterous** newspaper story that a six-month-old baby speaks three languages.

**scrupulous**  
skrōō' pyə ləs

*adj.* 1. Marked by close attention to the smallest detail.  
The treasurer kept a **scrupulous** record of all moneys received and paid out.  
2. Acting in a correct and honest manner.  
The children were **scrupulous** in the way they divided the money from the lemonade stand.

## 14A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 14. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) An incredulous person is someone (c) who has a childlike innocence.  
(b) who is not telling the truth. (d) A naive person is someone

2. (a) A counterpart is (c) a plant with healing properties.  
(b) a collection of animals. (d) A menagerie is

3. (a) To lurk is to (c) be prepared to defend oneself.  
(b) To pander is to (d) hide so as to attack without warning.

4. (a) A dismal story (c) A plausible story.  
(b) is one that is believable. (d) is one made up as one goes along.

allege

conclusive

counterpart

dismal

enthral

exotic

incredulous

legendary

lurk

menagerie

naive

pander

plausible

preposterous

scrupulous

5. (a) Allegations are things that have (c) much in common with each other.  
 (b) Counterparts are things that have (d) nothing to do with each other.
6. (a) An enthralling story is one (c) that is depressing.  
 (b) A dismal account is one (d) that is quite unbelievable.
7. (a) A preposterous offer is (c) An alleged offer is  
 (b) one that is made in writing. (d) one that cannot be taken seriously.
8. (a) who is careful to avoid wrongdoing. (c) who is careless of others' feelings.  
 (b) A legendary person is one (d) A scrupulous person is one
9. (a) one that can be taken two ways. (c) one that expresses disbelief.  
 (b) An incredulous reply is (d) A conclusive reply is

## 14B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 14.

1. We loved Tahiti, the tropical paradise in the South Pacific, because it was so **fascinatingly different and so far away**.
2. The squirrel was unaware of the cat **waiting to attack while hiding** in the bushes.
3. We think we know what caused the gas pipe to rupture, but the evidence is not **strong enough to put an end to all doubt**.
4. As far as we know, there is no **other planet that is in any way similar** to the planet Earth.
5. Her **statement that is not backed by proof** is that someone entered the house while she was away.
6. Robin Hood is a **famous character in stories handed down from the past but is probably not a real** figure.
7. The small children were **so attentive that they seemed to be under a spell cast by** Barney, the television dinosaur.

8. It's not a good idea for parents to **try to provide satisfaction by giving in** to their child's every whim.
9. When I first heard their story about finding a wallet full of money, I was **unable to accept it as true**.
10. To say that I would lie to protect myself is **too absurd to be believed**.
11. When you believed the promises in the chain letter, you were being **very foolish because of your inexperience in these matters**.

## 14C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. Questions may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following could be **plausible**?
- (a) an offer (c) an excuse  
(b) a solution (d) a lie
2. Which of the following express(es) **incredulity**?
- (a) "That's impossible!" (c) "Is that so?"  
(b) "You're pulling my leg." (d) "I suppose it's possible."
3. Which of the following could be **enthraling**?
- (a) a movie's climax (c) an indifferent performance  
(b) a tedious story (d) strenuous toil
4. Which of the following might be found in a **menagerie**?
- (a) tigers (c) kittens  
(b) wolves (d) whales
5. Which of the following is an **exotic** first name?
- (a) Jane (c) Moonbeam  
(b) Whoopee (d) Jack
6. Which of the following could be **dismal**?
- (a) the weather (c) a weekend  
(b) a forecast (d) a hovel

allege  
conclusive  
counterpart  
dismal  
enthrall  
exotic  
incredulous  
legendary  
lurk  
menagerie  
naive  
pander  
plausible  
preposterous  
scrupulous

7. Which of the following is a **legendary** figure?

- (a) Babe Ruth  
(b) Billy the Kid  
(c) Sandra Day O'Connor  
(d) Cleopatra

8. Which of the following could be **scrupulous**?

- (a) a person  
(b) an inspection  
(c) an incident  
(d) a privilege

## 14D Word Study

The prefix *in-* means "not" and usually changes a word into its opposite. But not all words beginning with *in-* contain this prefix. Study the words below and decide which begin with the prefix *-in-*, meaning "not." If the word does contain the *-in* prefix, write *yes*. If it does not, write *no*.

- |                  |       |                  |       |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. incident      | _____ | 11. inundate     | _____ |
| 2. inefficient   | _____ | 12. infuriate    | _____ |
| 3. incline       | _____ | 13. inadequate   | _____ |
| 4. incredulous   | _____ | 14. inherit      | _____ |
| 5. indifferent   | _____ | 15. inconclusive | _____ |
| 6. industrious   | _____ | 16. initiate     | _____ |
| 7. inconspicuous | _____ | 17. inconvenient | _____ |
| 8. intervene     | _____ | 18. intensify    | _____ |
| 9. incompetent   | _____ | 19. intimidate   | _____ |
| 10. inevitable   | _____ | 20. intrepid     | _____ |



## 14E Passage

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

## Bigfoot: Fact or Fantasy?

When European explorers returned from Asia and Africa in the Middle Ages, they reported having seen twelve-foot lizards with huge jaws that could eat a person whole. Most people who heard these stories were **incredulous** and accused the travelers of lying. But the stories seemed **preposterous** only because at that time hardly anyone in Europe had ever seen a crocodile. For centuries, travelers have been ridiculed for their reports of **exotic** creatures seen in distant lands. But the Komodo dragon of Indonesia, the giant panda of Western China, and the mountain gorilla of Ethiopia, to mention just three that were dismissed at one time as imaginary, really do exist.

More recently, there have been stories of Bigfoot, the **legendary** ape-like creature of the American Northwest. Bigfoot's **counterpart**, said to live just below the snowline in the Himalayan Mountains of Asia, is the yeti, also known as the Abominable Snowman. **Alleged** sightings, and even photographs, of both creatures make news periodically, and plaster casts have supposedly been made of their footprints. But the photographs are never sharp; the plaster casts could well be fakes; and the claims of those who say they have seen Bigfoot are not very **plausible**. Scientists have been **scrupulous** in their examination of the evidence, and their view is that it is not **conclusive**. Most remain unconvinced that Bigfoot and the yeti actually exist.

In spite of the scientists' findings, some people feel the need to believe that such creatures do exist because they are **enthralled** by the mysterious. They would like to think that somewhere deep in the forest, Bigfoot is **lurking**, or that high in the Himalayas, a team of mountaineers is about to come upon the yeti. Supermarket tabloids **pander** to these people with headlines such as "Bigfoot Stole My Baby" or "Yeti Attacks Climbers on Mount Everest." Of course, only the most **naive** people believe such stories.

Given our **dismal** record of dealing with wild creatures, it would probably be best for Bigfoot and the yeti, if indeed they *are* real, to remain undiscovered. For what would we do with them if we captured them?

Such creatures do not belong in a **menagerie** to be peered at and photographed by sightseers—the fate of the giant panda, the Komodo dragon, and the mountain gorilla. Bigfoot and the yeti are probably best left where they are now, creatures of our imagination, along with unicorns, fire-breathing dragons, and mermaids.

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. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. Do tabloid newspapers do a responsible job of reporting the news?

2. What is the meaning of **naive** as it is used in the passage?

3. What do Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman have in common?

allege  
conclusive  
counterpart  
dismal  
enthral  
exotic  
incredulous  
legendary  
lurk  
menagerie  
naive  
pander  
plausible  
preposterous  
scrupulous

4. How does the yeti compare with Bigfoot?
5. What do many people imagine Bigfoot to be doing?
6. Where would a creature like Bigfoot *not* belong?
7. What is the meaning of **incredulous** as it is used in the passage?
8. What is the meaning of **scrupulous** as it is used in the passage?
9. Why does the passage describe sightings of Bigfoot as “**alleged**”?
10. Why do most people not accept claims of Bigfoot sightings?
11. What kind of evidence would lead scientists to believe that Bigfoot exists?
12. What would be a likely reaction of people should there be a more convincing account of a Bigfoot sighting?
13. What is the meaning of **dismal** as it is used in the passage?

14. Why would a rabbit not be considered an **exotic** creature?

15. Why would a report that a unicorn had been spotted be **preposterous**?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The adjective **dismal** is formed from two Latin words: *dies*, "day," and *mal*, "bad." It is easy to see how having a bad day might make a person feel dismal.

The Old English word *thrael* means "a slave" and survives in our modern English word **enthrall**, one of whose meanings is "to enslave." The more common meaning, "to hold as if in a spell," can suggest a kind of enslavement; to be enthralled by someone is to be so fascinated by him or her that one surrenders one's will to that person.

The Latin verb *credere* means "to believe" and is used in the formation of a number of English words. *Credulous* persons are easily fooled because they are

inclined to believe whatever they are told, no matter how unlikely. On the other hand, persons who are **incredulous** find it hard to believe what they are being told. A *credible* story is one that sounds believable. An *incredible* story is one that is hard to believe.

A *scruple* is a twinge or sense of guilt felt when one wants to do something that one shouldn't. A **scrupulous** person is someone who has scruples and won't do something that is wrong or dishonest. Some people have no scruples and will do whatever is necessary to further their own purposes. They are *unscrupulous*.