

Lesson 10

Word List

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

amputate
am' pyə tāt'

v. To cut off a body part, especially by surgery.
The doctor had to **amputate** the mountain climber's frostbitten toes.

aptitude
ap' ti tœd'

n. A natural talent.
My sister Yolanda has an **aptitude** for math that has always made me envious.

beneficiary
ben' ə fish' ē er' ē

n. One who benefits or gains an advantage from something.
Impoverished families will be the **beneficiaries** of these low-rent apartments.

boon
boən

n. A welcome gift or blessing.
After a long dry spell, the rain was a **boon** to the Iowa farmers.

commiserate
kə miz' ə r āt

v. To feel or express sorrow or compassion for; to sympathize.
If I'm upset about something it helps me feel better if someone **commiserates** with me.

garner
gār' nər

v. To collect or gather; to acquire or obtain.
The school committee candidate **garnered** support by going from door to door throughout the district to meet people.

gratis
grat' əs

adj. Without payment; free of charge.
Admission to the museum is **gratis** on Mondays.
adv. The food packages students put together before Thanksgiving were offered **gratis** to families who were destitute.

incapacitate
in' kə pas' ə tāt'

v. To make helpless or incapable.
Keiko was **incapacitated** for six weeks while her leg was in a cast.
incapacity n.
Because of the **incapacity** that resulted from her car accident, Melda missed eleven days of work.

inception
in sep' shən

n. The beginning of an action or process.
I continue to extol the visiting artist program because it has been a success from the day of its **inception**.

magnanimous
mag nan' ə məs

adj. Generous, unselfish, or forgiving.
Nelson Mandela was too **magnanimous** to seek revenge on his persecutors.
magnanimity n. Quality of being above meanness or spite; generosity of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly.
Although he was found to have been jailed unjustly, he displayed great **magnanimity** on his release.

myriad
mir' ē əd

n. A very large number.
A **myriad** of mosquitoes swarmed around us as we traversed the swampy area.
adj. Very many.
Myriad beautiful tropical fish swam in the warm waters of the gulf.

practicable

prak' ti kə bəl

adj. 1. Capable of being done; feasible.Making a community garden in that vacant lot is a **practicable** plan, but you'll have to get permission from the city first.

2. Usable.

Motor boats are not **practicable** in the waters of the Florida Everglades.**remunerate**

rē myoo' nər āt'

v. To pay or reward.2. Were you **remunerated** for the work you did for the school's used book sale or was it voluntary?**remuneration** *n.*Acting as a public defender for clients who cannot afford a lawyer does not offer great financial **remuneration**.**solicit**

sə lis' it

v. To ask for in a formal way.Ms. Vargas came to our apartment to **solicit** contributions to her husband's campaign for attorney general.**solicitation** *n.*Although I considered their cause a good one, I could not afford to respond to their repeated **solicitations** for money.**trite**

trit

adj. Used so much that it is no longer fresh or new."Fresh as a daisy" is a **trite** expression, but I sometimes find myself using it anyway.

10A 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 **garner** things is to patch them up and reuse them.

2. A **practicable** arrangement is one that will work.

3. To **amputate** a limb is cut it off.

4. To **solicit** advice is to reject it.

5. To **incapacitate** someone is to emancipate that person.

6. A **trite** phrase is one that is brief and to the point.

7. A **boon** is anything that impedes progress.

8. To have an **aptitude** for something is to be naturally good at it.

9. To **commiserate** with someone is to sympathize with that person.

10. A **magnanimous** gesture is one that shows generosity of spirit.

11. To **remunerate** someone is to praise that person.

12. A **beneficiary** is one who seeks to do good.

13. To receive something **gratis** is to get it for nothing.

14. A **myriad** of tasks is a very large number of them.

15. The **inception** of something is its start or beginning.

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trite

10B 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. remunerative

- (a) Working in a fast-food restaurant is not very _____ .
- (b) The job applicants were so _____ that I couldn't interview all of them.
- (c) A _____ relative left Joe five hundred dollars in his will.

2. myriad

- (a) There were a _____ of reasons why I couldn't continue with the research project.
- (b) The sudden appearance of a _____ of ants interrupted our picnic.
- (c) There is a _____ of stars in our galaxy.

3. amputate

- (a) After her leg was _____ , she was fitted for an artificial one and was soon learning to walk again.
- (b) The discussion had to be _____ , since the time allotted for it had run out.
- (c) The earth is _____ into two hemispheres by the equator.

4. commiserate

- (a) "I wish I'd never agreed to come with you," Julius _____ .
- (b) I can _____ with you because I, too, have suffered the loss of a beloved pet.
- (c) The country is _____ into four time zones.

5. garner

- (a) The film _____ much publicity when it won five Academy Awards.
- (b) The kindergarten teacher _____ the children around her and read them a story from the book of fairy tales.
- (c) Apple growers in western Massachusetts _____ a bumper crop this year.

6. practicable

- (a) In the early sixties, NASA determined that it was _____ to put human beings on the moon.
- (b) Sybil gained _____ experience of child care by working in a nursery.
- (c) A tunnel connecting France and England has proved to be a _____ idea.

7. solicit

- (a) I used the telephone to _____ our new apartment.
- (b) Many non-profit organizations actively _____ contributions from the public by mail and by phone.
- (c) I received so many _____ in the mail that I couldn't answer them all.

8. incapacitate

- (a) Freddy was _____ for a week after he fell off the ladder.
- (b) Regular tune-ups will keep your car from becoming _____ .
- (c) Because so many people signed up, the trip was _____ .

10C 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. fateful | selfish | | |
| uneasy | magnanimous | S | A |
| 2. boon | blessing | | |
| dogma | aptitude | S | A |
| 3. garner | repose | | |
| enable | incapacitate | S | A |
| 4. inception | quandary | | |
| lapse | termination | S | A |
| 5. flamboyant | nondescript | | |
| brief | erudite | S | A |
| 6. solicit | sparkle | | |
| sojourn | scintillate | S | A |
| 7. affront | pariah | | |
| repose | compliment | S | A |
| 8. tacit | deficient | | |
| spoken | synthetic | S | A |
| 9. trite | raucous | | |
| sumptuous | spartan | S | A |
| 10. copy | myriad | | |
| facsimile | beneficiary | S | A |

- amputate
- aptitude
- beneficiary
- boon
- commiserate
- garner
- gratis
- incapacitate
- inception
- magnanimous
- myriad
- practicable
- remunerate
- solicit
- trite

100 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. **aptitude**

- (a) After only two lessons, Celia was skiing on the intermediate slopes.
- (b) Simone says that there is no one she can play duets with.
- (c) "Math has never been a problem for me," Jake said. "No pun intended."

2. **inception**

- (a) Kimberly is excited because she starts kindergarten today.
- (b) From now on, the store will be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- (c) The first railroad was built in 1814 and was used to haul coal.

3. **practicable**

- (a) Seth spends at least four hours a day on the basketball court.
- (b) Solar-powered cars work best where there is abundant sunshine.
- (c) Janine can repair anything around the house that needs fixing.

4. **myriad**

- (a) The largest known meteorite weighs sixty tons and hit the earth in 1920.
- (b) There are one hundred years in a century.
- (c) The new Protocar gets over eighty miles to the gallon.

5. **gratis**

- (a) Entry to the fairground is free for children eight and under.
- (b) Will you take care of the dogs if you are free on Saturday?
- (c) The prisoner was set free after serving six months in jail.

6. **trite**

- (a) I slept like a log last night.
- (b) The police are leaving no stone unturned in their search for evidence.
- (c) "Hello, Mo," I said. "Long time no see."

7. **beneficiary**

- (a) Each of my three cousins was left a one-third share in Grandmother's house.
- (b) Ebenezer Scrooge was a man who begrudged every penny he spent.
- (c) Children owe a debt to Drs. Salk and Sabin for developing polio vaccines.

8. **commiserate**

- (a) "I know just how you feel," said Basil.
- (b) "It serves you right!" my brother whispered.
- (c) "I hate this place," she cried.

9. **magnanimity**

- (a) Ms. McCarty used her life savings of \$150,000 to set up a scholarship fund.
- (b) An electric current can cause a compass needle to be deflected.
- (c) Although they are cousins, they haven't seen each other for years.

10. **boon**

- (a) I love the car's cruise control, especially on long trips.
- (b) Until he got his electric wheelchair, James found it hard to get around.
- (c) The senior center and its varied activities have made a big difference in my mother's life.

10E Passage

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

Dogs with a Cause

Debbie Walrod was an athletic young Californian, a former professional model and a ballerina, until a rare blood infection resulted in **amputation** of her legs and all her fingers. She thought her prospects for leading an active life were bleak. Then, through a program called Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), Walrod was matched with Oregon, a service dog, and her life became charged with possibility. "He's my hands, my feet, my best friend," she says gratefully.

CCI was created in 1975 by Dr. Bonita Bergin, a teacher who specialized in helping students who were physically challenged because of injury or disease. She knew that guide dogs had provided valuable help to blind people for many years, and she wondered if it would be possible to train dogs to perform the **myriad** tasks that most of us take for granted in our daily lives. Professional dog handlers were, for the most part, discouraging; they did not consider the idea **practicable**. However, Bergin did **garner** the support of health care professionals who, up until that point, had been able to do little more than **commiserate** with clients whose disabilities left them feeling helpless.

The dogs Bergin trained were supplied **gratis** to those who could not afford them. Although she worked out of her home with helpers who received little **remuneration**, costs were high, and for the first few years, there was doubt about whether the program would succeed. Bergin **solicited** contributions from the public, and thanks to the **magnanimity** of those who responded, CCI not only survived, it flourished. During the course of her work, Bergin found that young dogs were easier to train than older dogs. She also found that Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers showed a special **aptitude** for the kind of work required, so she began breeding them for this purpose.

There's a **trite** saying that "nothing succeeds like success." The phrase certainly applies to CCI, which by 2003 was running five regional centers across the country. In addition, more than a dozen similar organizations had been established. One of them is Paws with a Cause. It provided Steven Normandin with Sage, a black Labrador. Steve was diagnosed in infancy with cerebral palsy, a disease that affects muscle coordination and left him severely **incapacitated**. Trained to follow

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particular commands and use special straps that Steve carries, Sage opens and closes doors, turns light switches on and off, and pushes elevator buttons. She can retrieve pencils and other small objects from the floor and even knows what to do in case of fire. Hearing the command "Get help," Sage will do just that, jumping through a window if necessary.

Since its **inception** in the early 1980s, Paws with a Cause has grown rapidly and by 2002 was operating in twenty-two states. Of special interest is its Foster Puppies Program. Volunteers take care of puppies in their homes from the time they are weaned until they are a year old and mature enough to begin serious training with professional dog handlers. Among the **beneficiaries** of this program are not only those who are eventually teamed up with dogs, but also those who cared for the puppies during this critical period, many of whom are children.

Organizations like CCI and Paws with a Cause are a real **boon** to people who previously found themselves outside the mainstream of daily life. They also bring out the best in those who participate in the program, either by donating their time or their money. In addition, much has been learned about dog psychology and behavior. In 1991, Dr. Bergin formalized such studies when she founded the Assistance Dog Institute. It has been a leader in research, development, education, training, and placement of assistance dogs. What's the most surprising thing Dr. Bergin has learned about dogs? She says it's the capacity of the right puppies to learn behaviors that once seemed impossible. "Their brains are like sponges, they just soak up information," she says proudly.

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 do Debbie Walrod and Steven Normandin have in common?

2. If a service dog organization were to **solicit** help today, what do you think the likely response would be?

3. What was the attitude of professional dog trainers toward Bergin's plan before the **inception** of CCI?

4. What was particularly **magnanimous** about the earliest workers for Bergin?

5. How is Sage a **boon** to Steven Normandin's life?

6. What would an English teacher be likely to say about the expression "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" if it were used to explain one of Bonita Bergin's discoveries?