

Lesson 5

Word List

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

audacious

ô dā' shəs

adj. 1. Willing to take risks; daring.

Their **audacious** escape plan involved a helicopter landing in the prison yard.

2. Showing disrespect or a lack of courtesy.

Judge Miller admonished the defense lawyer for her **audacious** remarks to the expert witness.

audacity *n.* (ô das' ə tē) Willingness to take risks by showing excessive boldness.

Oliver Twist was the only boy with the **audacity** to ask for more food.

confiscate

kān' fi skāt

v. To seize, by force if necessary; to take possession of.

The Miami police **confiscated** the stolen paintings they found stored in a closet of the mansion.

conscientious

kān shē en' shəs

adj. 1. Thorough; careful.

Because of our **conscientious** preparations, the science fair was enjoyable and informative for everyone.

2. Honest; principled.

Several of the students made a **conscientious** effort to combat hunger by working with the food bank.

depict

dē pikt'

v. To give a picture of; to describe.

Patrick O'Brian's seafaring novels **depict** life aboard a navy sailing ship with great accuracy.

embark

em bārk'

v. 1. To go on board a ship or airplane at the start of a voyage.

Around nine o'clock, we **embarked** at Woods Hole for a day of whale watching.

2. To start out; to begin.

Larry Bird **embarked** on his professional basketball career after finishing college.

inkling

injk' liŋ

n. A slight suspicion; a vague idea.

As she opened the door, Shala had no **inkling** that her friends were hidden in the darkened room, waiting to shout "Surprise!"

lackadaisical

lak ə dāv zi kəl

adj. Showing little spirit or enthusiasm.

When the students came after school to work on their reports, the librarian was quite **lackadaisical** about enforcing the no-talking rule.

mutiny

myōōt' n ē

n. Deliberate refusal to obey orders given by those in command, especially by sailors.

The 1917 **mutiny** by French soldiers could have caused France to lose the war.

v. To rebel openly against a commander.

Captain Vere feared the sailors would **mutiny** if he didn't discipline Billy Budd.

pilfer

pil' fər

v. To steal repeatedly small amounts or things that are of little value.

Pip **pilfered** bread and other bits of food from his sister's kitchen to feed the man in hiding.

profusion

prō fyōō' zhən

n. A plentiful supply; a great or generous amount.

Daffodils grew in **profusion** along the river bank.

profuse *adj.* Given or occurring in generous amounts; abundant.

Jerry's **profuse** apologies convinced me he was sorry he had hurt my feelings.

prudent

prōōd' nt

adj. Very careful; showing judgment and wisdom.

Lost in the forest, Amy argued it was more **prudent** to wait until morning to find the trail than to continue wandering in the dark.

prudence *n.* The avoidance of risk; carefulness in what one says or does.

Although the knight was shaking with anger, he exercised **prudence**, saying nothing to the king who had insulted him.

rankle

ranj' kəl

v. To cause continuing anger or irritation.

The unfair criticism still **rankled** Deena, even though her friend later apologized.

rebuke

rē byōōk'

v. To criticize strongly; to reprimand.

We all watched as Mom **rebuked** Nina for running into the street without looking.

n. A sharp criticism.

My employer's **rebuke** seemed to include every mistake I had made since beginning the job.

serene

sə rēn'

adj. Calm and untroubled; peaceful.

The nurse's **serene** manner comforted the patients.

serenity *n.* (sə rēn' ə tē) A calm and untroubled state.

One way to achieve **serenity** is to practice yoga.

slovenly

sluv' ən lē

adj. Untidy; carelessly done.

Because of the carpenter's **slovenly** measuring, the floor was one inch higher at the back of the room than at the front.

5A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 5. Write each sentence in the space provided.

audacious

confiscate

conscientious

depict

embark

inkling

lackadaisical

mutiny

pilfer

profusion

prudent

rankle

rebuke

serene

slovenly

1. (a) one that is peaceful.
(b) one that changes frequently.

- (c) A lackadaisical manner is
(d) A serene manner is

2. (a) To rankle someone is to
(b) To rebuke someone is to

- (c) warn that person.
(d) criticize that person.

3. (a) a feeling of mistrust.
(b) Prudence is

- (c) Audacity is
(d) excessive boldness.

4. (a) to describe it.
(b) to remember it.

- (c) To confiscate something is
(d) To depict something is

5. (a) imitate another's actions.
(b) set out on a voyage.

- (c) To embark is to
(d) To mutiny is to

6. (a) avoids unnecessary risks. (c) A slovenly plan is one that
(b) A prudent plan is one that (d) has several parts.
7. (a) To pilfer something is to (c) take it by force.
(b) To confiscate something is to (d) exchange it for something else.
8. (a) A conscientious person is one who (c) defies authority.
(b) A lackadaisical person is one who (d) does careful work.
9. (a) to rebel against authority. (c) to make a sincere effort.
(b) To mutiny is (d) To pilfer is
10. (a) they are numerous. (c) If the illustrations are profuse
(b) If the illustrations are slovenly (d) they are elegant.

5B 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 5.

- Spencer was **so willing to take risks** with his bicycle that his parents feared he would hurt himself.
- My sister is always accusing me of being very **untidy and careless** in my personal habits.
- Poison ivy grows in **very large amounts** at the southern end of the island.
- When making loans, bankers are expected to act with **care to avoid anything that might be too risky**.
- An act of defiance against one's superior** is a serious crime.
- Unlike many of the early colonists, Roger Williams, acting in a **principled and honest** manner, paid the Narragansetts for the land he wanted to occupy.
- Helena had the first **faint suggestions** she had won the election when reporters from
- I hope you are not a person for whom an imagined slight **continues to irritate** much as a real one.

9. The dance committee was so **lacking in enthusiasm** that a week before the event nothing had been arranged.
10. Before mountaineers can **take the first steps** on a major climbing expedition, they need to raise money for equipment and supplies.

5C Applying Meanings

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

- Which of the following indicates a **slovenly** person?

(a) polished shoes	(c) dirty fingernails
(b) long hair	(d) patched jeans
- Which of the following might deserve a **rebuke**?

(a) breaking a rule	(c) saving a child's life
(b) showing negligence	(d) getting an A on a test
- Which of the following might **rankle**?

(a) a deliberate insult	(c) an unexpected rebuff
(b) a false accusation	(d) an affable remark
- Which of the following could be **confiscated**?

(a) a warm smile	(c) a helpful attitude
(b) a sum of money	(d) a firm promise
- Which of the following might a **lackadaisical** student do?

(a) ask for extra homework	(c) pay close attention
(b) get straight A's	(d) daydream in class
- Which of the following would a **conscientious** driver do?

(a) signal before making a turn	(c) obey speed limits
(b) stay alert while at the wheel	(d) ignore stop signs
- Which of the following suggests **serenity**?

(a) a basketball game	(c) a sleeping baby
(b) a sunset	(d) a carnival ride
- Which of the following can a person **pilfer**?

(a) a diamond ring	(c) a candy bar
(b) a car	(d) a sneeze

audacious
 confiscate
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 inkling
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 pilfer
 profusion
 prudent
 rankle
 rebuke
 serene
 slovenly

5D Word Study

Write in the missing word in the sentences below. Choose each word from this or an earlier lesson.

1. The prefix *re-* means “back.” It combines with the Latin verb *salire* (to leap) to form the English word _____ (able to spring back).
2. The prefix *re-* also means “again.” It combines with the Latin verb *currere* (to run) to form the English word _____ (to happen again).
3. The prefix *de-* means “remove.” It combines with the Greek word *hydr* (water) to form the English word _____ (to remove water from).
4. The prefix *an-* means “without.” It combines with the Greek word *onuma* (name) to form the English word _____ (of an unknown name).
5. The Greek word *pseudes* means “false.” Combined with the Greek word for “name,” it forms the English word _____ (a fictitious or pen name).
6. Two Greek words, *anthos*, meaning “flower,” and *legein*, meaning “to gather,” combine to form the English word _____ (a collection of various writings).
7. The prefix *in-* means “in” or “into.” It changes to *im-* when it combines with the Latin verb *pellare* (to drive) to form the English word _____ (to drive forward).

5E Passage

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

The *Bounty*, Part One

When the captain of His Majesty’s Ship *Bounty* spoke to the men on watch a little after midnight, everything seemed normal. Three weeks before, on April 4, 1789, Captain Bligh and his crew had **embarked** for the West Indies from the tropical South Pacific island of Tahiti. For six months, they had collected breadfruit plants, which grew in **profusion** on Tahiti. The purpose of the voyage was to transport over a thousand of these plants, already carefully stowed on board, to the West Indies to be grown as a food crop for the slaves who worked on the large plantations there.

Captain Bligh probably should have realized that not all was as **serene** as it seemed. He knew that his men had been loath to leave the pleasant island life to return to the more rigid structure of life aboard ship. He had, in fact, been dissatisfied with the **slovenly** habits they had developed while the *Bounty* had lain at anchor. Not only had some of the crew failed to care properly for the sails, but others had **pilfered** from the ship because no one was keeping proper watches.

Furthermore, Captain Bligh seemed to have lost confidence in his chief mate, Fletcher Christian. It had been Christian’s **lackadaisical** attitude, Bligh believed, that had resulted in the sailors’ neglecting their duties on Tahiti. Bligh had **rebuked** Christian for failing to supervise the men properly. If this had **rankled** the chief mate, Bligh had not perceived any change in him when the two had dined together.

Despite these annoyances, Bligh's mood was calm when he returned to his cabin. He had no **inkling** of what was about to happen as, rocked by the gentle motion of the ship, he fell asleep. Had he been **prudent**, he might have posted a guard outside his cabin. As it was, its door was not even locked. Shortly before dawn, the captain was awakened abruptly. Fletcher Christian, accompanied by several crew members, burst in and informed him that they had taken over the ship. They had **confiscated** all the weapons on board and locked up the eighteen crew members who remained loyal to the captain.

Bligh warned those who held him prisoner that for this **audacious** act they would all be hanged. His warning, however, had no effect. Later that morning, he and the loyal crew members were pushed into an open boat. They were permitted to take some weapons with them and were given a small quantity of food and water. Bligh watched helplessly as Christian and the remaining crew members on board sailed off in the *Bounty*, leaving him and the other passengers in the tiny boat to their fate in the middle of the vast ocean.

. . . .

Three movies have been made of the **mutiny** that took place on the *Bounty* on the morning of April 28, 1789. All three **depict** Captain Bligh as a cruel man who treated his crew badly and was himself responsible for what happened. However, by using information in court documents, letters, and diaries written by people who participated in the events, several historians argue that Bligh was a **conscientious** naval officer, no stricter than other sea captains of the time. While he had ordered several men flogged twelve or even twenty-four lashes for being disobedient, this was the usual punishment at that time in the British navy for quite minor offenses. To this day, there is no unanimous explanation for this event that changed the lives of these men forever.

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. Why do you think there was such a serious punishment for **mutiny**?

audacious
confiscate
conscientious
depict
embark
inkling
lackadaisical
mutiny
pilfer
profusion
prudent
rankle
rebuke
serene
slovenly

2. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Fletcher Christian as a **conscientious** first mate?

3. What is one example from the passage that illustrates the crew's **slovenly** performance?

4. Why do you suppose Christian was **rebuked** but not flogged for his supervision of the men on Tahiti?

5. What is the meaning of **embarked** as it is used in the passage?

6. What kinds of things do you think the men could have **pilfered** from the ship?

7. Why was Tahiti a good place to gather breadfruit plants?

8. What details in the passage show that Bligh was not **lackadaisical** about running his ship?

9. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the men who took over the ship were acting in a **prudent** manner?

10. Was Bligh **rankled** by his men's behavior on the night of April 27, 1789? Explain.

11. Why is it likely that Captain Bligh did not feel **serene** as he watched the *Bounty* sail away?

12. How did Fletcher Christian make sure that none of the crew would resist his takeover?

13. How do we know that no one warned the captain of possible trouble?

14. What is the meaning of **audacious** as it is used in the passage?

15. Why do you think Captain Bligh was **depicted** as cruel in the movies about this event?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

In early Roman times, tax collectors working for the state put the money they collected in baskets woven from rushes. The Latin name for this basket was *fiscus*. *Fiscal*, which means “having to do with money collected and spent by the state,” is formed from *fiscus*. So is the word **confiscate**. The state has the power to seize, by force if necessary, money owed to it by its citizens.

The word **lackadaisical** has an interesting history. In the eighteenth century, a person might

express regret for a failure to act properly by saying, “Alack the day.” Translated into modern English it means, “I’m sorry that day happened.” The expression became shortened to “lackaday,” and a person who had reason to use it frequently was described as *lackadaisical*.

Lax is a separate word, meaning “not strict or demanding.” (Accidents occurred because of the *lax* safety rules at the plant.) Don’t substitute *laxadaisical*, which is not in any dictionary, for *lackadaisical*.