

Lesson 7

Word List

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

beseech

bē sēch'

v. To ask earnestly; to beg.

I **beseech** you to stay just one more day.

consternation

kān stər nā' shən

n. Amazement or fear that makes one feel confused.

We were filled with **consternation** when we saw that our car had been towed.

delectable

dē lek' tə bəl

adj. Pleasing to the senses, especially to the sense of taste; delicious.

My grandfather's homemade apple pie is **delectable**.

garland

gār' lənd

n. A wreath or chain of leaves and flowers.

The islanders greet new arrivals with **garlands** of fresh flowers to put around their necks.

gratify

grat' i fī

v. 1. To please or satisfy.

The Red Cross was **gratified** by the response to its appeal for blood donors.

2. To give in to what is wanted or requested.

My parents were unable to **gratify** my wish for a pony.

gratifying adj. Pleasing.

It is **gratifying** to see one's hard work in math rewarded with higher grades.

haughty

hōt' ē

adj. Showing too much pride in oneself and scorn or contempt for others.

The supervisor's **haughty** manner made her unpopular in the office.

haughtiness n. The state or quality of being haughty.

His **haughtiness** seemed absurd for one who had accomplished so little.

impetuous

im pech' ōō əs

adj. Inclined to act without thinking; hasty.

I regretted my **impetuous** decision to invite everyone at Marcello's party to come over to my place.

lavish

lav' ish

adj. 1. Much more than enough.

The Chinese New Year's celebration included a **lavish** fifteen-course meal.

2. Very costly.

The tribal chiefs at the ceremony bestowed **lavish** gifts on each other as signs of respect.

v. To give freely or generously.

Critics **lavished** praise on the new Broadway musical.

pluck

pluk

v. 1. To pull off or out; to pick.

I was tempted to **pluck** a rose from the bush, but the sight of the thorns stopped me.

2. To remove the feathers from.

This machine can **pluck** a chicken in less than eight seconds.

3. To pull at and let go.

You play the harp by **plucking** the strings gently.

n. Courage; bravery.

It took a lot of **pluck** for Rico to learn to walk again.

plucky adj. Brave; courageous.

After a **plucky** attempt to rescue the kitten stuck in the tree, Monique had to call the fire department.

ponder
pān' dər

v. To think about; to consider carefully.

Lost in thought, the chess player **pondered** her next move.

privilege
priv' ə lij

n. A special favor, right, or advantage given to a person or group.

Free parking at Reagan National Airport is one of the **privileges** enjoyed by members of Congress.

privileged *adj.* Given favors or advantages denied to others.

You should feel **privileged** that you were able to attend an Ivy League school.

prostrate
prās' trāt

adj. 1. Lying flat.

Having fainted, he lay **prostrate** on the floor.

2. Lying facedown, especially to show respect.

The worshippers in the temple lay **prostrate** before the high priest.

3. Completely overcome; weak and helpless.

People were **prostrate** with terror as the tornado approached.

rapture
rap' chər

n. A state of great joy, delight, or love.

The Scot was filled with **rapture** at the sound of bagpipes.

revelry
rev' əl rē

n. Noisy merrymaking.

Sounds of **revelry** came from the locker room after the game.

whim
wim

n. A sudden wish to do something without a particular reason; a fanciful idea.

Purchasing a puppy is not something to be done on a **whim**.

7A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 7. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A plucky attempt is one
(b) that takes a lot of courage.

- (c) An impetuous attempt is one
(d) that is bound to fail.

2. (a) To be prostrate is to be
(b) devoid of hope.

- (c) To be gratified is to be
(d) lying with the face downward.

3. (a) To act impetuously is to
(b) do something without thinking.

- (c) do something knowing it to be wrong.
(d) To act in a haughty manner is to

4. (a) is to be watchful and alert.
(b) is to be blissfully happy.

- (c) To be in a state of rapture
(d) To be in a state of consternation

5. (a) A haughty person is
(b) A privileged person is
(c) one who tries to please others.
(d) one who shows contempt for others.
6. (a) A whim is
(b) a wreath of leaves and flowers.
(c) A garland is
(d) a small gift.
7. (a) Consternation is
(b) contempt for the feelings of others.
(c) Revelry is
(d) a state of shocked surprise.
8. (a) To be prostrate is to be
(b) To be gratified is to be
(c) dissatisfied.
(d) helpless.
9. (a) Pluck is
(b) a display of joy.
(c) noisy merrymaking.
(d) Revelry is
10. (a) to give it freely.
(b) To lavish something is
(c) To ponder something is
(d) to feel uncomfortable about it.

beseech
consternation
delectable
garland
gratify
haughty
impetuous
lavish
pluck
ponder
privilege
prostrate
rapture
revelry
whim

7B 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 7.

1. I **am making an earnest request to** you not to get involved in their quarrel.
2. The **feeling of great joy and love** in the faces of the bride and groom was captured in the wedding photographs.
3. Imagine being able to buy a plane ticket to Tahiti on a **sudden wish to do something out of the ordinary!**
4. Parents do not have to **show they care by giving in to** every wish of their children.
5. I felt **that I was being given a special favor** when my parents let me borrow the car for the first time.

6. Getting back on a horse after taking a bad fall takes **a lot of courage**.
7. The student **gave a great deal of deep thought to** the question before replying.
8. The pizza at Saracino's is **pleasing to the taste**.
9. The new government offices are so **much more luxurious than is necessary** that reporters were shocked at the waste of taxpayers' money.
10. We were **lying stretched out flat on the ground** from exhaustion after our long trek.

7C 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 can express **haughtiness**?
(a) a look (c) a retort
(b) an insult (d) a bias
2. Which of the following could be considered a **privilege**?
(a) receiving a reprimand (c) staying up late
(b) voting in an election (d) paying taxes
3. Which of the following can be **plucked**?
(a) feathers (c) trees
(b) flowers (d) guitar strings
4. Which of the following might be a part of **revelry**?
(a) dancing (c) solitude
(b) music (d) laughter
5. Which of the following actions by children would **gratify** their parents?
(a) making derogatory remarks (c) cleaning up their rooms
(b) making astute comments (d) disrupting supper
6. Which of the following might cause **consternation**?
(a) losing the car keys (c) suddenly gaining weight
(b) losing a wallet (d) suddenly losing weight

7. Which of the following might a person **ponder**?
- (a) a choice of college
 - (b) a choice of leader
 - (c) the origin of the universe
 - (d) braking to avoid an accident

8. Which of the following might be done on a **whim**?
- (a) electing a president
 - (b) administering a test
 - (c) buying a new coat
 - (d) building a space station

7D Word Study

The most common meaning of the prefix *in-* is “not” or “without.” With this meaning, it turns a word into its opposite. For example, it turns *correct* into *incorrect*. The prefix *in-* can also act as an intensifier, making the word to which it attached stronger or more emphatic. To make certain words easier to say, the prefix changes to *im-* before the letters *b*, *m*, and *p*. It changes to *il-* before the letter *l*, and it changes to *ir-* before the letter *r*.

Add the correct form of this prefix to the words below. Then write the letter of the definition that best fits each new word.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____precise | _____ | a. neither good or bad |
| 2. _____partial | _____ | b. not regular |
| 3. _____furiate | _____ | c. not relevant |
| 4. _____relevant | _____ | d. not precise |
| 5. _____capable | _____ | e. very hasty |
| 6. _____different | _____ | f. not literate |
| 7. _____lustrious | _____ | g. not partial |
| 8. _____petuous | _____ | h. not capable |
| 9. _____literate | _____ | i. extremely outstanding |
| 10. _____regular | _____ | j. make very angry |

- beseech
- consternation
- delectable
- garland
- gratify
- haughty
- impetuous
- lavish
- pluck
- ponder
- privilege
- prostrate
- rapture
- revelry
- whim

7E Passage

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

The Midas Touch

It is sometimes said of people who are good at making money that everything they touch turns to gold. Such people are said to have “the Midas touch,” an expression that comes from an ancient Greek myth. The Greek god Dionysus was visiting Phrygia, now part of Turkey, when his companion Silenus wandered off and got lost, arriving some time later at the court of King Midas. Having had too much to drink, he slipped off his donkey and fell asleep on the ground. When King Midas came upon him, he recognized Silenus at once and felt **privileged** to receive a visit from the friend of a god.

King Midas was determined to make his guest's stay a pleasant one. Midas's daughter presented Silenus with **garlands** made from flowers she herself had picked. Slaves fell **prostrate** to the ground when he passed and rushed to obey his every **whim**. Musicians filled the air with sweet music wherever he went. And every night the king honored Silenus with a **lavish** banquet at which the most **delectable** dishes were served. In short, Midas did everything he could think of to **gratify** his guest. The **revelries** continued until Dionysus finally arrived in search of his companion.

Dionysus told Midas that in return for his kindness to Silenus, he could have anything he wanted. Now King Midas loved gold almost as much as he loved his own daughter, so he did not stop to **ponder** Dionysus's offer. “Make everything I touch turn to gold,” he said. When Dionysus suggested that Midas was being **impetuous**, the king **haughtily** rejected the suggestion. He was too proud to take advice from anyone, even a god. He refused to change his mind, and so Dionysus granted him his wish.

Eager to try out his new power, King Midas rushed into the garden as soon as his visitors had left and **plucked** an apple from a tree. In an instant it turned to gold. The king was in a state of **rapture**. He called out to his daughter and flung his arms around her as he told her the good news. To his **consternation**, she instantly turned into a gold statue.

King Midas was aghast when he saw the consequences of his greed. He **beseached** Dionysus to take back his gift. Dionysus agreed to do so, and he also restored the king's daughter to her human state. As for King Midas, he learned this important lesson: be careful what you ask for; you might get it.

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

2. What brought Midas's **rapture** to an end?

3. Where do you think Midas's daughter placed the **garlands** she gave Silenus?

4. Why might Silenus have praised the chefs who worked for Midas?

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

6. How did Midas react when Dionysus suggested that he be cautious?

7. How did Midas's mood change when he saw what he had done?

8. Why should Midas have **pondered** Dionysus's offer?

9. Why did Dionysus agree to take back his gift?

10. What is the meaning of **plucked** as it is used in the passage?

11. Why did Midas go to such trouble to entertain Silenus?

12. Why had Silenus no cause to complain about the service he received?

13. Why did Midas not give himself time to think over Dionysus's offer?

14. For how long did Midas entertain Silenus?

15. What is the meaning of **lavish** as it is used in the passage?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The adjectives **prostrate** and *prone* both mean “lying with the face downward,” but there is a difference between them that should be noted. *Prostrate* suggests either a show of respect or a state of helplessness. *Prone* is a more neutral term; it indicates bodily position and nothing more (lying *prone* in a bed). The antonym of *prone* is *supine*; it means “lying with the face upward.”

The Latin verb *rapere* means “to seize” and forms the root of several English words. To be in a state of **rapture** is to be seized by deep feelings of joy. The adjective *rapt* means “deeply absorbed.” It is difficult to get the attention of people who are rapt in thought; it is as though their minds have been seized by thoughts that mentally disconnect them from what is going on around them. Finally, there is *raptor*,

the name for a bird of prey that seizes small animals or fish in its talons and carries them off to eat later. Hawks and eagles are raptors.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, *whim-wham* was the name for a fanciful or amusing object worn as an ornament or decoration. The origin of the term is unknown, but it became shortened to **whim**, and its meaning was broadened so that a whim came to mean “a fanciful or amusing idea.” *Whimsy* is a related word; it means “a fanciful or amusing quality.” (The Uncle Remus stories of Joel Chandler Harris are filled with *whimsy*.) The adjective form of *whimsy* is *whimsical*; it means “marked by whimsy; amusing or fanciful.” (A battery-powered fork for twirling spaghetti was one of the *whimsical* objects on display.)