

Lesson 7

Word List

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

claustrophobia

klôs trə fō' bē ə

n. An abnormal fear of narrow, enclosed spaces.

Although John is in the navy, his **claustrophobia** prevents him from serving in submarines.

colleague

kāl' ēg

n. An associate or coworker of similar status.

On her birthday, Mom's **colleagues** surprised her by taking her out to lunch.

condescend

kān də send'

v. 1. To lower oneself to a position one considers inferior.

Once he became president of the company, Mr. Rose never **condescended** to travel in any way but first class.

2. To behave in an offensively superior manner.

During rehearsals, the star of the show never **condescended** to join the rest of the cast for lunch; instead he ate alone in his dressing room.

condescending *adj.* Showing an offensively superior manner.

Lucinda's **condescending** attitude is not what we want in our elementary school tutors.

contingent

kən tin' jənt

adj. 1. Conditional; depending on something else.

Tanya's plans for attending the university were **contingent** on receiving a scholarship.

2. Likely, but not certain to happen; possible.

If it rains, our **contingent** plan is to move the strawberry festival from the school lawn to the auditorium.

n. A group that is part of a larger one.

The Ethiopian **contingent** led the parade of Olympic athletes into the stadium.

daunt

dōnt

v. To discourage or intimidate.

Learning that she needed a bone-marrow transplant did not **daunt** Miranda, but instead gave her hope for her future.

daunting *adj.* So difficult or dangerous as to discourage or intimidate.

Expelled from Massachusetts Bay Colony in the winter of 1636, Roger Williams began a

daunting journey south to find a place to settle.

deluge

del' yōōj

n. 1. A downpour of rain; a flood.

Opening the dam just north of the Grand Canyon sent a **deluge** to the dry river beds in the canyon.

2. A flood of anything.

When the Millers advertised their new car for such a low price, they received a **deluge** of offers to buy.

v. To flood or overwhelm.

As she convalesced from her surgery, Delia's friends **deluged** her with cards, phone calls, and visits.

dispel

di spel'

v. To clear away; to remove or get rid of, as if by scattering.

I wanted Linda to reassure me, but her letter, instead of **dispelling** my fears, increased them.

dub

dub

v. To give a title, nickname, or description to.

His fans **dubbed** Babe Ruth "the Sultan of Swat."

fanfare
fan' fâr

n. 1. A sounding of trumpets or other brass instruments.
The audience is alerted to the entrance on-stage of Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude, by a loud **fanfare**.
2. Any showy display.
The props manager, working behind the scenes without **fanfare**, was essential to the overall effect of the play.

fledgling
flej' liŋ

n. 1. A young bird just learning to fly.
The **fledgling** swallows took short trial flights over the yard from their nest on the porch.
2. A young and inexperienced person.
The reporter, a **fledgling**, forgot to get the eyewitness's name.
adj. New and untested.
My father's **fledgling** computer programming business has been very busy this month.

inane
in' ân'

adj. Empty; shallow or silly.
Susan, bored by the **inane** chatter of her classmates, walked on down the hall.
inanity *n.* (in an' ə tē) Foolishness; a silly or pointless act.
Hearing the **inanity** of his own response made Bruno understand how exhausted and in need of sleep he really was.

mettle
met' l

n. Courage to bear up under difficult circumstances; spirit.
In spite of the soldiers' threats, the children showed their **mettle** by refusing to tell them anything about their friend.

negligible
neg' lə jə bəl

adj. Small and unimportant, not worth noticing.
The team's mistakes in the final tournament were **negligible**, having no effect on the result.

protract
prō trakt'

v. To draw out or lengthen (in time).
Our trip was **protracted** unnecessarily by driving right past the correct exit.

replica
rep' li kə

n. A copy or reproduction, especially one on a smaller scale than the original.
A **replica** of the Statue of Liberty stood on my grandmother's shelf, a reminder of her first glimpse of her new country.

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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 contingent is | (c) a coworker with equal status. |
| (b) A colleague is | (d) an inexperienced person. |
| 2. (a) fear of enclosed spaces. | (c) a breakdown of the social order. |
| (b) Mettle is | (d) Claustrophobia is |
| 3. (a) a large amount of it. | (c) A deluge of something is |
| (b) A replica of something is | (d) a showy display of it. |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4. (a) a part of a larger group.
(b) A fanfare is | (c) a fixed period of time.
(d) A contingent is |
| 5. (a) A condescending actor
(b) A fledgling actor | (c) is one who outshines all others.
(d) is one who treats others as inferior. |
| 6. (a) a lack of spirit.
(b) An inanity is | (c) A fanfare is
(d) a flourish of trumpets. |
| 7. (a) fail to take proper care.
(b) To be daunted is to | (c) be afraid or intimidated.
(d) To be negligible is to |
| 8. (a) a young bird.
(b) A fledgling is | (c) A replica is
(d) a feather worn as decoration. |
| 9. (a) one that offers encouragement.
(b) one that is foolish. | (c) A negligible remark is
(d) An inane remark is |
| 10. (a) If an argument is protracted,
(b) it is kept from damage or harm. | (c) If an argument is dispelled,
(d) it is drawn out in time. |

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.

- Your salary will be **dependent to some extent** on how many years of experience as a nurse you have had.
- A **somewhat smaller copy** of Philadelphia's Liberty Bell hangs in our town museum.
- Young and inexperienced** fencers need close supervision at first, so that they do not hurt each other with their foils.
- The cost of an oil change for the car was **small enough that we thought nothing of it**.

5. With very little **display intended to gain attention**, the owner announced that he would continue to pay his workers while the burned factory building was repaired.
6. When Brad and Tom got caught in a blizzard with the herd of horses they were driving over the mountain, they had plenty of opportunities to show their **ability to bear up under difficult circumstances**.
7. The sudden **downpour of rain** caused the crowd at the racetrack to run for shelter.
8. On summer mornings, the ocean breeze soon **gets rid of** the morning mist.
9. Last summer the lifeguard at our pool was **given the name** Hercules because he loved to show off his muscles.
10. The way to deal with the **silly foolishness** of daytime talk shows is to turn off the television.

7C Applying Meanings

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

claustrophobia
colleague
condescend
contingent
daunt
deluge
dispel
dub
fanfare
fledgling
inane
mettle
negligible
protract
replica

1. Of which of the following could a **replica** be made?

(a) a rebuff	(c) an ancient coin
(b) the <i>Bounty</i>	(d) a dinosaur bone
2. Which of the following could be called a **fledgling**?

(a) a day-old chick	(c) a robin testing its wings
(b) an inexperienced waiter	(d) a two-star general
3. Which of the following can be **condescending**?

(a) a remark	(c) a person
(b) an attitude	(d) an elevator
4. With which of the following can one be **deluged**?

(a) offers	(c) orders
(b) mail	(d) water
5. Which of the following would have **colleagues**?

(a) a doctor	(c) a recluse
(b) a lawyer	(d) a college professor

6. Which of the following might a person suffering from **claustrophobia** avoid?

- (a) open spaces (c) elevators
(b) heights (d) narrow tunnels

7. Which of the following could be **negligible**?

- (a) an amount of time lost (c) a sum of money
(b) a careless driver (d) an amount of damage

8. Which of the following can be **dispelled**?

- (a) fear (c) doubts
(b) suspicion (d) fog

7D 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. annoy	name	deluge	dub	S	A
2. fanfare	courage	welcome	mettle	S	A
3. rankle	shorten	protract	deluge	S	A
4. condescend	frighten	daunt	lengthen	S	A
5. contingent	expert	colleague	fledgling	S	A
6. conspire	dispel	condescend	evoke	S	A
7. foolish	inane	negligible	cursory	S	A
8. deluge	copy	address	replica	S	A
9. negligible	meticulous	substantial	gruesome	S	A
10. proprietor	associate	colleague	expert	S	A

7E Passage

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

Women in Space, Part One

In 1959, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) introduced the first seven United States astronauts to the public. The announcement, made with great **fanfare**, brought instant fame to the seven. All were former test pilots and all were male.

In 1978, almost twenty years later, when the newest **contingent** of aspiring astronauts arrived for training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, things had changed. That group included scientists, engineers, and medical doctors. In addition, six of the thirty-five **fledgling** astronauts were women.

At first, a **condescending** attitude toward women in the space program by some of the older men presented a problem. These space veterans felt that women lacked “the right stuff” to be astronauts. To **dispel** such prejudices, the women felt that they needed to perform as well or better than their male counterparts. Candidates had to be smart, tough, highly educated, and meticulous in everything they did. Physical strength, the one area where the men could outperform the women, was not an important factor. During their year of basic training, the six women met the challenge, proving their **mettle** in all situations.

Training to be an astronaut was a **daunting** task. The astronauts studied a range of subjects, including astronomy, the weather, geology, mathematics, navigation, and the human body. They spent hundreds of hours in the classroom learning the inner workings of every part of the space shuttle. Then they received hands-on experience in a **replica** of the shuttle, complete in even the smallest detail. In this way the actual space shuttle was comfortably familiar to the astronauts, even when going aboard for the first time.

Trainee astronauts spent time underwater to simulate the effects of weightlessness that they would experience in space. They also went aboard K-135 planes that flew almost vertically upward before turning back along a **protracted** flight path that curved toward the earth, resulting in a sensation of weightlessness. These flights also gave other sensations, which led to the trainees **dubbing** this aircraft “the vomit comet.”

Another important part of the program was survival training, both on land and at sea. What if the space shuttle’s rocket engines and their backup systems failed while it was in orbit? Even though the chance of this happening was **negligible**, the astronauts had to be prepared for every possibility. Aboard the shuttle were fabric rescue balls, thirty inches in diameter, which could be inflated with oxygen. In an emergency, astronauts would crawl inside them while waiting to be transferred to a rescue vehicle. Climbing into one of these was very unpleasant, especially for anyone suffering even a mild form of **claustrophobia**.

Finally, in the spring of 1982, one of the six women graduates of the space program was chosen for Space Transportation System-Flight 7. She was Sally Ride, a scientist with an advanced degree in physics from Stanford University and an expert in X-ray astronomy and lasers. As soon as the announcement was made, NASA was **deluged** with requests for interviews with the first American woman to fly in space. Dr. Ride cheerfully submitted to endless questioning from reporters, answering even the most **inane** ones with patience and good humor.

After the flood of publicity came a further year of intensive training geared to the requirements of the mission for which she had been chosen. Then, on June 18, 1983, along with four male **colleagues**, Dr. Sally Ride began her historic five-day flight aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*.

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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. How did the women trainees **dispel** any doubts about their abilities?
2. Why would the space shuttle seem familiar to those boarding it for the first time?
3. What is the meaning of **contingent** as it is used in the passage?
4. Which part of the training would you find **daunting**?
5. How important is physical strength for astronauts?
6. Were women able to succeed in all areas of the training? Explain your answer.
7. Why would someone who was afraid of enclosed spaces be unhappy as an astronaut?
8. What is the meaning of **fanfare** as it is used in the passage?
9. How many women trained along with Dr. Ride?
10. What caused Dr. Ride's training to be **protracted**?

11. Why do you think reporters ask celebrities **inane** questions?

12. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the older male astronauts welcomed the female trainees?

13. What pet name did the trainees have for the K-135 plane?

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

15. Would it be accurate to describe Sally Ride as a **fledgling** astronaut when she was chosen for Flight-7? Explain your answer.

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Old Norse was a northern European language spoken in Scandinavia until the fourteenth century. The Old Norse word *dubben* means “to strike” and was given a particular meaning when it was brought into English. A monarch, in the act of naming a person

a knight, would strike that person lightly on the shoulder with a sword, while saying, “I **dub** thee Sir _____,” along with the person’s name. The word came to mean “to give a title to” and was later broadened to its present, more general, meaning.