

# Lesson 8

## Word List

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

### adroit

ə droit'

*adj.* Clever at dealing with difficult situations; adept; skillful.

Her **adroit** handling of the boat saved us from going onto the rocks.

### affront

ə frunt'

*v.* To insult or to offend deliberately.

There is no better way to **affront** your coworkers than to suggest that they are indolent.

*n.* A deliberate insult or offensive act.

We will not ignore the **affront** to our family expressed in this letter.

### avocation

av ə kā' shən

*n.* An activity pursued for pleasure; a hobby.

Serious artists say that painting is both their profession and their **avocation**.

### crusade

krøə sād'

*n.* A prolonged, impassioned struggle for what is believed to be a just cause.

John Brown's **crusade** to emancipate the slaves led to his execution in 1859.

*v.* To engage in such a struggle.

Throughout much of his life, Ralph Nader has **crusaded** energetically to remove dangerous products from the marketplace.

### definitive

dē fin' ə tiv

*adj.* Supplying a final answer; conclusive.

Some scholars believe that the **definitive** biography of the poet Sylvia Plath has not yet been written.

### demeanor

də mēn' ə r

*n.* Behavior; bearing.

She must have been in shock, because her **demeanor** didn't change in the slightest as she watched her home go up in flames.

### erudite

er' ə dīt'

*adj.* Having or demonstrating extensive knowledge; learned.

In her first book, the author provided an **erudite** account of the looting of artworks during World War II.

**erudition** *n.*

His **erudition** is evident in more than one subject.

### induct

in dukt'

*v.* 1. To install in office, sometimes with a formal ceremony.

The president of the university was **inducted** into office in the morning and then attended a luncheon held in her honor at noon.

2. To admit to a society or to military service.

Each year the National Academy of Science **inducts** a few celebrated researchers.

**induction** *n.*

The **induction** ceremony into the Baseball Hall of Fame was a thrilling experience for the retired pitcher.

### lapse

laps

*v.* 1. To fall or slip from a certain level of conduct or accomplishment.

After a month of regular exercise, we **lapsed** into inactivity.

2. To come to an end; to expire.

When the state trooper stopped me for speeding, he also discovered that my driver's license had **lapsed**.

*n.* 1. A minor mistake; a slip.

A **lapse** of memory caused me to miss our tennis engagement last week.

2. A pause or interval.

With such voluble students, there was never a **lapse** in class discussion.

**militant**

mil' i tǎnt

*adj.* Ready to fight, especially for a cause.My parents, **militant** supporters of public education, worked with other parents and the teachers to improve the elementary schools in our town.*n.* One who is ready to fight for a cause.**Militants** occupied the president's office, demanding changes in the college curriculum.**pariah**

pə rī' ə

*n.* A social outcast.Her classmates treated Maria like a **pariah** when she told the principal that drugs were being sold in school.**prodigy**

prəd' ə jē

*n.* 1. A person who shows remarkable talent at an early age.Mozart was a musical **prodigy** who began composing at age five.

2. An amazing or extraordinary thing or event.

Everyone flocked to the new Ferris wheel, which was regarded as a **prodigy** of the age of steel.**protégé**

prōt' ə zhā

*masc. n.; protégée, fem. n.* One whose training or career is helped along by another.Margaret Thatcher was a **protégée** of Edward Heath, whom she eventually replaced as British prime minister.**raucous**

rō' kəs

*adj.* 1. Rough and unpleasant to the ear.The **raucous** cries of the restaurant's parrot startled the diners.

2. Boisterous and disorderly.

Before the lights went out, our camp counselor let us have a pillow fight, but made sure things didn't become too **raucous**.**tacit**

tas' it

*adj.* Expressed without words; implied.You gave your **tacit** approval by not raising any objections to our plan.

## 8A 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.

adroit

affront

avocation

crusade

definitive

demeanor

erudite

induct

lapse

militant

pariah

prodigy

protégé

raucous

tacit

1. A **crusade** is an Italian pastry.2. An **induction** is a powerful explosion.3. When an agreement **lapses**, it is no longer in effect.4. A **prodigy** is something amazing or extraordinary.

5. An **affront** is a mistake that has serious consequences.

6. A **protégé** is a first or early version of something.

7. A **raucous** cry is one that is not very pleasant to the ear.

8. A **militant** group is one whose members wear a uniform.

9. An **erudite** person is one who is excessively proud.

10. An **avocation** is a short trip taken for pleasure.

11. One's **demeanor** is the way one behaves or presents oneself.

12. An **adroit** move is one that is skillfully thought out and executed.

13. A **pariah** is a leader of a political, religious, or social group.

14. A **tacit** agreement is one that is understood but unspoken.

15. A **definitive** result is one that cannot reasonably be questioned.

## 8B 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. induct

- (a) Max is taking care of some last-minute details before he is \_\_\_\_\_ into the army.  
 (b) A secretary \_\_\_\_\_ me across the hall and into the manager's office.  
 (c) Ty Cobb was the first person \_\_\_\_\_ into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

### 2. militant

- (a) As the peasants became more \_\_\_\_\_, the soldiers became more violent.  
 (b) We belong to an organization that has become more \_\_\_\_\_ in protecting the environment.  
 (c) Colonel and brigadier general are senior \_\_\_\_\_ ranks.

### 3. crusade

- (a) Senator Braun's \_\_\_\_\_ for the White House was starting to falter.  
 (b) The government's \_\_\_\_\_ against drunk drivers began having an effect in the 1980s.  
 (c) Those who \_\_\_\_\_ against unnecessary violence in movies deserve our support.

### 4. lapse

- (a) I'm afraid he will \_\_\_\_\_ into his old bad habits if he doesn't get help.  
 (b) Don't allow your passport to \_\_\_\_\_ if you are going abroad this year.  
 (c) A single C+ is his only \_\_\_\_\_ in an otherwise perfect record of straight As.

### 5. raucous

- (a) The coach's voice was \_\_\_\_\_ from shouting at the rookie players throughout practice.  
 (b) The \_\_\_\_\_ weekend parties at Wetherby House disturb the entire neighborhood.  
 (c) The wound had been left unattended and was now \_\_\_\_\_ and inflamed.

### 6. protégé

- (a) Being a \_\_\_\_\_ of a Supreme Court Justice greatly helped her legal career.  
 (b) As an endangered species, the manatee has \_\_\_\_\_ status.  
 (c) My cousin was a chess \_\_\_\_\_.

### 7. adroit

- (a) Her \_\_\_\_\_ replies to reporters' tough questions earned her their respect.  
 (b) He gave me an \_\_\_\_\_ look when I asked him what help he needed.  
 (c) The sheepdog's \_\_\_\_\_ maneuvering kept the flock moving smoothly to the pasture.

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 tacit

**8. definitive**

- (a) It now seems \_\_\_\_\_ that Friday's parade will have to be canceled.
- (b) The public is entitled to \_\_\_\_\_ answers to these troubling questions.
- (c) The results of your study, while not \_\_\_\_\_, are very significant.

**8C Word Study**

Choose from the two words provided and use each word only once when filling in the spaces. Once space should be left blank.

**adroit / skillful**

1. Did you notice the \_\_\_\_\_ way she changed the subject?
2. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ carpenter could do the work in two hours.
3. Suzie was \_\_\_\_\_ with the math problem.

**erudite / clever**

4. It was \_\_\_\_\_ of Jeff to change the subject whenever politics was mentioned.
5. A person familiar with the literature of eight languages can be called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. It's \_\_\_\_\_ the way the moon always shows the same face to earth.

**censure / criticize**

7. People sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ what they don't understand.
8. The United States Senate can \_\_\_\_\_ a member for unethical behavior.
9. "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ my right to free speech."

**divulge / reveal**

10. A close inspection was able to \_\_\_\_\_ several small surface cracks.
11. The information he planned to \_\_\_\_\_ was deliberately misleading.
12. Those actors \_\_\_\_\_ their speeches too quickly.

**cynical / skeptical**

13. It is smart to be \_\_\_\_\_ of claims that seem too good to be true.
14. These reports are too \_\_\_\_\_ to be believed.
15. A child may become \_\_\_\_\_ if his parents don't keep their promises.

## 8D 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. avocation

- (a) Dr. Muramoto worked as a family physician in Tate County for over forty years.
- (b) Every winter we go to the Dominican Republic for two weeks.
- (c) Jay goes horseback riding every weekend.

### 2. demeanor

- (a) Ellie claimed that having to perform menial tasks was beneath her.
- (b) Everyone agreed that Warren Harding looked every inch a president.
- (c) Her mischievous expression told us that she had planned a surprise for us.

### 3. militant

- (a) The book gives a brief history of every war fought by China.
- (b) The O'Garas demanded unquestioned obedience from their children.
- (c) Many Serbs opposed any negotiations with the Bosnians.

### 4. protégé(e)

- (a) As game warden, Mr. Seavers was responsible for a thousand acres of woodland.
- (b) The FDA is an agency set up to monitor the safety of food and drugs.
- (c) Both her coach and her mother traveled with her to the ice-skating competitions.

### 5. affront

- (a) Aaron told Cheryl to her face that she was not welcome in his home.
- (b) As the hurricane swept up the Georgia coast it caused extensive damage.
- (c) Speaking in a hostile tone, one member of the Board of Trustees repeatedly challenged the honesty of the chairperson.

### 6. crusade

- (a) On January 1, Marcy resolved to get more exercise in the coming year.
- (b) Seven marching bands took part in the Fourth of July parade.
- (c) The library will not make you pay fines for overdue books returned in May.

### 7. erudition

- (a) Dr. Blair's translation of the Old Akkadian texts won him much praise.
- (b) My short story was rejected by the magazine without an explanation.
- (c) Bertrand Russell tried to show that mathematics could be derived from logic.

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8. **tacit**

- (a) Tony and Daniel exchanged glances and knew at once what they had to do.
- (b) She signaled her approval of my action by giving me a wink.
- (c) The repair person told me there would be no charge, but nothing was put in writing.

9. **prodigy**

- (a) Heidi could see no way out of the predicament she now found herself in.
- (b) The Trojans stared in wonder at the enormous wooden horse at the gate.
- (c) By the age of four, Rajendra could speak several languages fluently.

10. **pariah**

- (a) When the Rogovins first moved to London, they had no friends.
- (b) No one would sit next to Tyrone in class when he was sneezing and coughing.
- (c) Gwen had lived in Paris for more than fifteen years.

## 8E Passage

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

## First Gentleman of Sports

The **raucous** boxing fans, gathered at Madison Square Garden in New York on February 6, 1993, **lapsed** into silence as the announcement came over the public address system. Tennis champion Arthur Ashe had just died of pneumonia. With their response, the crowd paid their respects to a man whose presence had been felt far beyond the world of tennis. His death, though shocking, was not entirely unexpected. A year earlier, knowing that newspapers were about to reveal the fact that he was suffering from AIDS, Ashe called a news conference to announce that he had contracted the disease from infected blood he had received during heart bypass surgery in 1983.

Arthur Ashe was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1943. When he was six his mother died, leaving his father, a parks policeman, to raise their two sons alone in a society where the races were legally segregated. Because of his father's occupation, Ashe was allowed on the whites-only city tennis courts, where he began playing at the age of seven and where he demonstrated a natural ability for the game. At the age of ten, he met Dr. Walter Johnson, an African American physician whose **avocation** was assisting young black tennis players. "Dr. J." recognized the young boy as a tennis **prodigy** and took him under his wing, arranging for his **protégé** to attend tennis camps and to take part in competitions.

In 1955, when Ashe was thirteen, he tried to enter a tournament in his hometown of Richmond and was rejected because of his race. This and other such **affronts** to his dignity led ultimately to his **crusade** to change the image of tennis as a white, middle-class game. His accomplishments in this area include starting tennis programs in five major cities and helping found the National Junior Tennis League, acts designed to open up the game to inner-city youth.

Ashe's calm **demeanor** on the tennis court earned him the respect of spectators everywhere and was a **tacit** rebuke to his opponents, who often went out of their way to attract attention by hurling their rackets to the ground and engaging in other tantrums. However, Ashe's placid manner never fooled anyone into thinking that he lacked fire. He intimidated his opponents with the ferocity of his play, while his smashing serve and **adroit** placing of the ball (he developed sixteen variations of his backhand alone) were especially feared.

In 1968, Ashe won the U.S. Open and was ranked number 1 by the United States Lawn Tennis Association. Two years later he won the Australian Open, and in 1975 he reached what many consider the summit of tennis

achievement by winning the men's singles title at Wimbledon. The heart condition which was to lead indirectly to his premature death caused his retirement from active playing in 1980. For the next five years, he captained the United States Davis Cup Team, and in 1985 he was **inducted** into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

In his retirement, Ashe wanted to be more than a celebrity. He served as national chairman of the American Heart Association and also raised funds for AIDS research. He proved himself to be a graceful and **erudite** writer. His major work, *A Hard Road to Glory: A History of the African-American Athlete*, published in 1988, is recognized as the **definitive** work on the subject.

In his memoir *Days of Grace*, published in 1993, Ashe says, "While blood was pouring in the streets of Birmingham, Memphis, and Biloxi . . . dressed in immaculate whites, I was elegantly stroking tennis balls in perfectly paved courts in California, New York, and Europe." As if to make up for his earlier detachment from the Civil Rights Movement, Ashe became increasingly **militant** in his later years. He marched in protests against South Africa's apartheid system and he protested the policy of the United States against Haitian refugees. On these and other occasions, he was arrested. Although in his memoir he writes, "I am with Thoreau, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King in their belief that violence achieves nothing but the destruction of the individual soul and the corruption of the state," he also expresses regret that he did not see things differently earlier in life.

The state of Virginia, which had treated him and so many others of his race as **pariahs**, honored Ashe in his death. His body lay in state in Virginia's capitol in Richmond as the world mourned.

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. How did Ashe benefit from Dr. Johnson's **avocation**?

2. Why did Dr. Johnson encourage and support Ashe's tennis playing?

3. In what way was Ashe treated like a **pariah** in 1955?

4. Why is it likely Ashe would have been **affronted** if the newspapers had revealed he had AIDS?

5. What **definitive** proof is there of Ashe's paramount position in tennis?

6. How did Ashe's manner on the court compare to the way he played?

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tacit



7. What is one example from the passage that shows that Ashe became more **militant** in expressing his values?
8. What effect did growing up in a segregated community have on Ashe's life?
9. What serves as an indication of Ashe's **erudition**?
10. Why was announcing he had AIDS an **adroit** move on Ashe's part?
11. What **lapse** in good medical practice led to Ashe's death? Do you think the same thing could happen today?
12. What purpose was served by Ashe's calm manner on the court?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

**Adroit**, meaning "skillful," comes from the French phrase *a droit*, "to the right." Its antonym, *gauche* (gōsh) is unchanged in form from the French word for "left" and means "clumsy." The idea that the left side is inferior, even that there is something sinister about it, goes back to Roman times, when priests regarded signs from the left as indicators of misfortune. The word *sinister* itself comes from the Latin word for "left."

The Crusades were a series of attempts by European Christians to seize control of the Holy Land from Muslims. The first attempt took place at the end of the eleventh century; the Crusades contin-

ued for the next two hundred years. In addition to bearing arms, the Christians also carried the cross, the Latin name for which is *crux*. This gave these ventures, all of which failed, their name. Today, a **crusade** (written with a small c) describes any campaign waged with great energy and enthusiasm on behalf of a cause.

Historically, India has had a very rigid caste system. At the bottom were the *paraiyar*, also called "the untouchables." The British, who ruled India for several centuries, brought the word into English as **pariah**, someone who is a social outcast.