

Lesson 9

Word List

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

allure

ə lōōr'

n. The power to attract or charm.

For many travelers the canals and winding streets of Venice have a particular **allure**.

antiquity

ən tik' wə tē

n. 1. The ancient world, especially before the Middle Ages.

Emperor Nero of Rome was one of the great despots of **antiquity**.

2. The quality of great age.

Only an expert can establish the **antiquity** of these jeweled brooches.

antiquities *n.* Valuable objects from ancient times.

Among the Mayan **antiquities** were several beaded masks.

appraise

ə prāz'

v. 1. To estimate the value of.

A realtor **appraised** the house across the street at \$125,000.

2. To form a judgment of; to evaluate.

The foreman looked long and hard at the woman's resumé, **appraising** it carefully before offering her the job.

cleave

klēv

v. 1. To cling to or be faithful to.

Many Amish still **cleave** to their values of simplicity and self-sufficiency.

2. To split with force or a sharp instrument.

I **cleaved** a chunk of ice from the block with an ice axe.

depreciate

dē prē' shē āt'

v. 1. To make or become less in value.

Real estate in a good location can be a wise investment because it seldom **depreciates**.

2. To represent as of little value; to belittle.

Prince Charles of England **depreciates** much of contemporary architecture, preferring older, more classic designs.

facet

fas' ət

n. 1. Any of the many small, flat surfaces on a precious stone made by cutting.

The poorly cut **facets** detract from the value of that emerald.

2. One of many sides or aspects of something.

We examined every **facet** of the scheduling problem before proposing a solution.

facsimile

fak sim' ə lē

n. An exact copy.

"Since this document appears to be a **facsimile**, we will have to wait until I receive the original will," the lawyer said.

impervious

im pər' vē əs

adj. 1. Incapable of being penetrated.

We stayed dry in the downpour because our tent is **impervious** to rain.

2. Not affected or disturbed by.

His calm demeanor as he faced the huge audience showed that he was **impervious** to stage fright, even though he'd never performed before.

nondescript

nān' di skript'

adj. Hard to describe because of a lack of distinctive qualities or features.

Encumbered with a backpack and other paraphernalia, I walked along the endless row of **nondescript** houses looking for number 136.

quandary
kwān' də rē

n. A state of being in doubt about what to do.

The lawyers were in a **quandary** about whether or not controversial material on the Internet is protected by the First Amendment.

repose
rē pōz'

v. 1. To lie at rest.

Until it was time to leave, I **reposed** in the hammock on the porch.

2. To place (power, etc.) in some person or group.

The nation **reposes** its trust in the fairness of the federal court system.

n. A state of rest or relaxation.

Juliet's visage in **repose** was startlingly beautiful.

scintillate
sint' l āt

v. 1. To flash or sparkle.

The mirrors on the revolving ball suspended from the ceiling **scintillated** above the dancers.

2. To be lively and witty.

People often invited my father to dinner because he could be counted on for **scintillating** conversation.

scrutinize
skroet' n iz

v. To examine with great care.

The Internal Revenue Service inspector **scrutinized** every expenditure on my tax returns for the past four years.

scrutiny *n.* Close examination.

The detective's careful **scrutiny** of the crime scene helped uncover the solution to the mystery.

synthetic
sin thet' ik

adj. Not naturally produced; made by artificial processes.

Most cloth today is colored with **synthetic** dyes.

transmute
trans myoet'

v. To change the form or appearance of.

In the fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin," the foolish miller claimed that his daughter could **transmute** straw into gold.

9A 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.

allure
antiquity
appraise
cleave
depreciate
facet
facsimile
impervious
nondescript
quandary
repose
scintillate
scrutinize
synthetic
transmute

1. A **facsimile** is a comparison made between two similar things.

2. To be **impervious** to criticism is to be unaffected by it.

3. To **repose** is to keep changing one's position.

4. A **synthetic** substance is one whose ingredients are unknown.

5. **Antiquity** is the quality of being ancient.

6. To **scintillate** is to be lively and witty in conversation.

7. A **facet** is a mechanism of a wheel or a bar.

8. To **appraise** someone is to make a judgment of that person.

9. A **nondescript** person is one who has little to say.

10. To subject something to **scrutiny** is to observe it closely.

11. To **depreciate** something is to increase its value.

12. **Allure** is anything worn as an ornament or decoration.

13. A **quandary** is a state of uncertainty or confusion.

14. To **transmute** a substance is to change it into something different.

15. To **cleave** something is to split it.

9B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

1. repose

- (a) The weary traveler looked for a bench on which she might _____ her limbs.
 (b) After a night's _____ at an inn, we were once again on our way.
 (c) I am going to _____ my savings in the bank.

2. cleave

- (a) Notice how the new ivy tends to _____ to the exterior of the building.
 (b) We watched the sleek yacht _____ through the water.
 (c) He was determined to _____ to his principles, no matter what.

3. transmute

- (a) The medieval alchemists hoped they could _____ base metals into gold.
 (b) The sun is hot enough to _____ matter in the form of hydrogen into energy.
 (c) When she marries, she does not intend to _____ her name.

4. scintillate

- (a) The chandelier's bright lights _____ in the elegant ballroom.
 (b) He sometimes tries too hard to _____ when he goes to parties.
 (c) She could usually _____ when something was not as it seemed.

5. impervious

- (a) Redwood makes good outdoor furniture because it is _____ to moisture.
 (b) The _____ weather has kept my grandmother inside for most of the winter.
 (c) A good umpire must be _____ to criticism from her team's fans.

6. antiquity

- (a) The _____ of these Etruscan ornaments is part of their great value.
 (b) Babylon, on the Euphrates River, was one of the great cities of _____.
 (c) The _____, housed in the Barnes Museum, is at least two thousand years old.

7. allure

- (a) A career in show business held a certain _____ for Jodie Foster from a young age.
 (b) Movie star Mae West's _____ made her a top box office draw in the 1930s.
 (c) The _____ of gold led thousands of hopeful miners to California in 1849.

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8. appraise

- (a) It's too early to _____ the significance of the new governor's political appointments.
- (b) I would _____ his height at six feet and his weight at two hundred pounds.
- (c) Luisa is going to have the ring her great aunt left her _____ .

9C Word Study

Fill in the missing word in each of the sentences below. Then write a brief definition of the word. The number in parenthesis shows the lesson in which the word appears.

1. The prefixes *im-* (not) and *per-* (through) combine with the Latin *via* (way) to form the adjective _____ (9).

Definition: _____

2. The prefix *syn-* (together) combines with the Latin *tithenai* (to put) to form the adjective _____ (9).

Definition: _____

3. The Latin *scintilla* (a spark) forms the verb _____ (9).

Definition: _____

4. The prefix *trans-* (across) combines with the Latin *mutare* (to change) to form the verb _____ (9).

Definition: _____

5. The prefix *ex-* (out of) combines with the Latin *orbita* (track; path) to form the adjective _____ (7).

Definition: _____

6. The Latin *vox* (voice) and *ferre* (to carry) combine to form the adjective _____ (6).

Definition: _____

7. The Latin *tacere* (to be silent) forms the adjective _____ (8).

Definition: _____

8. The Latin *scrutari* (to search) forms the verb _____ (9).

Definition: _____

9. The Latin *facere* (to make) and *simile* (similar) combine to form the noun _____ (9).

Definition: _____

10. The Latin *rudus* (rough; unfinished) forms the adjective _____ (6).

Definition: _____

9D 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. antiquity

- (a) Octavian, known as Augustus, became the first Roman emperor in 27 B.C.E.
- (b) At the age of 112, Minnie Ward was the oldest living person in Massachusetts.
- (c) Joanne keeps her 1955 Ford Thunderbird in showroom condition.

2. depreciate

- (a) The stock I bought for \$1,200 was worth \$600 when I sold it.
- (b) The novel dismissed by the critics as worthless later became a classic.
- (c) A diet lacking in calcium causes rickets, a bone disease.

3. nondescript

- (a) He was difficult to describe because he looked so ordinary.
- (b) Henry cannot make up his mind about anything.
- (c) There was not a single distinctive feature about any of the new buildings in the mall.

4. scrutiny

- (a) When we put it under a microscope it was clear that the \$100 bill was a forgery.
- (b) Every name on the list of graduating seniors was checked for accuracy at least three times.
- (c) The customs officers looked through our luggage before our passports could be stamped.

5. allure

- (a) Irene stared in horrified fascination as the cobra drew back its head.
- (b) The idea of living on a tropical island holds great appeal for some people.
- (c) When he learned that the campus was close to the ski slopes, Tom decided to apply to Montana State.

6. facet

- (a) As she moved her hand, the diamond ring reflected light in bright flashes.
- (b) The first part of our journey took us from Chicago to Des Moines.
- (c) Raoul wasn't eager to hear his boss's lecture on punctuality again.

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7. synthetic

- (a) Polar Fleece fabric is made in part from recycled plastic bottles.
- (b) The art historian the museum hired said the Vermeer landscape was a fake.
- (c) Saccharine is made from coal tar and is 550 times sweeter than cane sugar.

8. quandary

- (a) A magnificent beech tree grew at each of the town square's four corners.
- (b) I didn't know whether to sell my car or have it repaired and keep it.
- (c) I'm trying not to eat red meat, but I can't decide whether or not to include chicken in my diet.

9. impervious

- (a) Bullets just bounced off Superman, the Man of Steel.
- (b) As her alarm sounded in the morning, Anita slept soundly.
- (c) Lead sheeting protects the body against radiation.

10. facsimile

- (a) She smiled, but it was obvious to me that it was not sincere.
- (b) It looks like a first edition of William Blake's poems, but it was printed recently.
- (c) Looking at the two documents, it's impossible to say which is the original.

9E Passage

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

Diamonds

A diamond is the hardest substance found on earth. It can be scratched only by another diamond and is **impervious** to even the strongest acids. A diamond is so dense, so tightly packed with carbon atoms, that light passing through it slows to one-third its normal speed.

A diamond is a mineral form of carbon. For carbon to crystallize into a diamond, extreme heat and great pressure are required. Diamonds are likely formed in molten rock deep in the earth and then forced upward. In its natural state, a diamond can have one of several appearances, including that of a lusterless opaque gray or black stone or even a **nondescript** bit of glass.

What transforms a diamond from its natural state into the **scintillating** gem in the jeweler's display case? It depends largely on the diamond cutter's skill in cutting, sawing, and polishing. In the past, after **scrutinizing** the diamond from every angle, the cutter would **cleave** it with a single blow aimed at a precise spot, a nerve-racking experience since the stone could shatter if struck at the wrong angle. Today, most diamonds are cut with saws that are actually thin, metal disks. Polishing, the final step in diamond cutting, requires a revolving iron wheel to create **facets**—the flat surfaces that reflect light, making the diamond sparkle. Though diamond cutting may reduce the size of the original stone by as much as fifty percent, the end result is a brilliant diamond with special **allure** and value.

Valued since **antiquity**, diamonds originally were thought to come only from India, but in the 1700s they were discovered in Brazil; in the 1800s, South Africa became a major source. Now diamonds can be found in other parts of Africa, Australia, and the United States as well.

The heaviest rough, or uncut, diamond on record was discovered in South Africa in 1905. Weighing 3,106 carats, or slightly over one and one-third pounds, it was cut the old-fashioned way. Its owner must have

reposed great trust in the cutter, who reportedly fainted and had to be lifted off the floor after successfully completing the operation. Ultimately, this stone, the Cullinan, was cut into nine large and ninety-six smaller gems. The largest of these, the Star of Africa, weighing 530.2 carats, was presented by the South African government of Transvaal to the king of Great Britain. It is the largest cut diamond in the world and is kept under tight security in the Tower of London, where it forms part of the British crown jewels.

There was great excitement in the diamond world when an 890-carat rough diamond was found in South Africa in the early 1980s. Its owners hoped to cut it into a finished gem of at least 531 carats, making it larger than the Star of Africa. To help determine its final shape, diamond cutters made several plastic **facsimiles** cut in various ways. As the cutters proceeded, they realized the truth of the gem cutters' old saying: "The diamond, not the diamond cutter, tells the saw where to cut," for the owners found themselves in a **quandary**: either their diamond could be the largest in the world but would not be perfect, or it could be perfect but not the largest in the world. It finally became the world's second largest diamond at just over 400 carats and was **appraised** at twenty million dollars.

Beginning in the 1890s, attempts were made to create **synthetic** diamonds. The problem at the time was that real diamonds are formed far below the earth's surface, and there was no way to duplicate these conditions in the laboratory. Then, in the 1950s, scientists succeeded in producing pressures of one and a half million pounds per square inch, and, as a result, they were able to **transmute** graphite (composed of carbon) into industrial quality diamonds. These are good for cutting other diamonds and are useful in various kinds of drills. Today, even greater pressure produces artificial diamonds of gem-like quality with weights up to one carat. One such imitation diamond is made from the mineral zircon which, when exposed to high temperatures, loses its color and takes on a great brilliance.

A first-quality diamond can cost as much as thirty thousand dollars a carat. But size is only part of the story. A diamond's value depends on what jewelers call the four Cs: cut, clarity, carats, and color. White diamonds are highly regarded, whereas stones with a yellow or brown tinge are not. Green and blue diamonds are very rare; and the extremely rare pink diamond sells for as much as a million dollars a carat! Unfortunately, for the average buyer, diamonds are a poor investment. Like automobiles, diamonds **depreciate** substantially in value as soon as they are purchased.

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. In the past, how could a cutter unintentionally **depreciate** a diamond's value?

2. What is the special **allure** of the Star of Africa?

3. Under what conditions would a diamond fail to **scintillate**?

4. Why could one **repose** little confidence in a diamond bought on the street?

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5. Why would it be easy to overlook a diamond in its natural state?
6. If you saw the Star of Africa in a store window, what might you conclude?
7. What would an expert's **scrutiny** of a diamond reveal?
8. Why would a diamond from **antiquity** look similar to a diamond today?
9. What does it take to **transmute** graphite into diamonds?
10. How might a "diamond" made from zircon be **appraised**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Don't confuse **appraise** with the similar sounding *apprise*, which means "to inform." (The owner was delighted when I *apprised* her of the fact that her house was *appraised* at two hundred thousand dollars.)

Cleave has a very unusual origin. The first definition, "to cling" (from the Anglo-Saxon *cleofian*), is

nearly the opposite or the antonym of the second definition, "to split" (from the Old English *cleofan*). Over time *cleofian* and *cleofan* merged to become one word, *cleave*, with two distinct meanings.