

Lesson 6

Word List

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

addict
ad' ikt

n. 1. A person with a very strong desire for something that is habit-forming and sometimes harmful.

Junk food **addicts** need to change their eating habits.

2. A person who is a very enthusiastic fan.

A true crossword puzzle **addict** should complete this puzzle in twenty minutes.

v. (a dikt') To cause someone to have a very strong desire for something.

Pushers try to **addict** people to illegal drugs.

addiction *n.* (ə dik' shən) The condition of being addicted.

We need more treatment centers for drug **addiction**.

addictive *adj.* (ə dik' tiv) Likely to cause **addiction**.

Cocaine is an **addictive** substance.

aspire
ə spīr'

v. To have a strong desire to get or do something; to seek.

Every NFL team **aspires** to win the Super Bowl.

aspiration *n.* (as pər ā' shən) A strong desire to achieve something; an ambition.

Jian Xiao sings in local clubs but has **aspirations** to be an opera singer.

bias
bi' əs

n. A preference that prevents one from being impartial; prejudice.

The lawyers in town insist that Judge Lewis shows **bias** in favor of women.

v. To cause someone to have prejudice; to influence.

Don't let a single bad experience with one French restaurant **bias** you against all others.

blatant
blāt' nt

adj. Very obvious in an offensive or shameless way.

The governor's promise to cut taxes if re-elected was a **blatant** attempt to win votes.

candid
kan' did

adj. Expressed honestly and without holding back unpleasant truths.

Tony asked the teacher for her **candid** opinion about his poem.

confront
kən frunt'

v. 1. To stand up to; to face boldly.

Do you intend to **confront** the people who have been spreading rumors about you?

2. To put or bring face to face.

When the police **confronted** the pair with the evidence, they confessed to the robbery.

confrontation *n.* (kən frən tā' shən) A hostile meeting between people who hold opposite views.

Rosie avoided a **confrontation** with her mother by staying in her room.

debut
dā' byoo

n. A first public appearance.

Radio broadcasting made its **debut** in 1920.

v. To make a first public appearance.

The new television shows **debut** in September.

enroll
en rōl'

v. To sign up to become a member of some group or activity; to register.

A small inheritance made it possible for me to **enroll** in art school.

enrollment *n.* The number of people enrolled.

The karate class has an **enrollment** of six students.

fluster
flus' tər

v. To make nervous, embarrassed, or confused.

The personal question **flustered** me, so I was unable to think of an answer quickly.

impunity
im pyōō' nə tē

n. Freedom from being harmed or punished.

Those who think they can smoke cigarettes with **impunity** are sadly mistaken.

intensify
in ten' sə fī

v. To increase; to strengthen or deepen.

Volunteers will **intensify** their efforts to find the missing children.

intimidate
in tim' ə dāt

v. To frighten, especially by threatening someone.

The pitcher's scowl was intended to **intimidate** the batter.

intimidation *n.* (in tim ə dā' shən) The act of intimidating.

Jones claimed that **intimidation** had been used to make him confess to the crime.

obnoxious
əb nāk' shəs

adj. Very unpleasant; disgusting.

An **obnoxious** diner at the next table ruined our meal by complaining in a very loud voice.

retort
rē tōrt'

v. To answer, especially in a quick or clever way.

"You have much to be modest about," I **retorted** when the speaker claimed to be a modest person.

n. A quick or clever reply.

Unable to think of a suitable **retort**, I remained silent.

stint
stint

n. 1. A period of time devoted to a job or some task.

After finishing college, Marsha had a two-year **stint** in the Peace Corps in Kenya.

2. A limit or restriction.

Local benefactors gave without **stint** to help make the youth center a reality.

v. To limit or restrict.

Many parents **stint** on luxuries to pay for their children's education.

6A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 6. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) To debut is to
(b) overcome difficulties.

- (c) limit or restrict.
(d) To stint is to

2. (a) Impunity is
(b) Intimidation is

- (c) the act of threatening a person.
(d) a strong desire to succeed.

3. (a) is a habit that is hard to break.
(b) is a desire to do well. (c) An addiction
(d) A confrontation
4. (a) to break a bad habit.
(b) To debut is (c) to make a first public appearance.
(d) To retort is
5. (a) face that person boldly.
(b) To confront someone is to (c) To enroll someone is to
(d) fail to treat that person fairly.
6. (a) A candid answer is one (c) that is made up on the spur of the moment.
(b) A blatant lie is one (d) that is obvious to everyone.
7. (a) Bias is (c) freedom from the fear of punishment.
(b) Impunity is (d) the inability to break a habit.
8. (a) An addict is (c) a clever reply.
(b) An aspiration is (d) an enthusiastic fan.
9. (a) does not hold back the truth.
(b) is anxious to please. (c) An obnoxious person is one who
(d) A candid person is one who

10. (a) a first public appearance. (c) a quick and clever reply.
(b) A retort is (d) A bias is

addict
aspire
bias
blatant
candid
confront
debut
enroll
fluster
impunity
intensify
intimidate
obnoxious
retort
stint

6B 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 6.

1. A **definite amount of time spent working** in the kitchen was part of each camper's daily routine.
2. It's best to **face up to** your problems rather than to hope they'll go away.

3. The band made its **first public appearance** precisely one year ago.
4. The smell from the fish processing plant was **not only unpleasant but disgusting**, so the authorities closed the building down.
5. The weather report said that heat will **become more extreme** as the day wears on.
6. Many comedians who work in clubs have **strong ambitions** to appear on national television.
7. Some people ask you to be **honest in what you say** and then get upset when you are.
8. Those with an **inability to say no** to illegal drugs need treatment rather than punishment.
9. My new year's resolution is to **sign up as a student** in the community center's yoga class.
10. Your **inability to take an impartial position** prevents you from considering both sides of the question.

6C 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 cannot be done with **impunity**?
 - (a) walking the dog
 - (b) neglecting to pay bills
 - (c) losing weight
 - (d) skipping classes
2. In which of the following might one **enroll**?
 - (a) a painting class
 - (b) a birthday party
 - (c) the Peace Corps
 - (d) summer camp
3. To which of the following might one **aspire**?
 - (a) the presidency
 - (b) a jail sentence
 - (c) a career in the theater
 - (d) being born to wealthy parents
4. Which of the following can be **intensified**?
 - (a) one's efforts
 - (b) criticism
 - (c) a search
 - (d) a number between 1 and 10

5. Which of the following might **intimidate** a person?
 - (a) an offer of help
 - (b) a parent's anger
 - (c) fear of a reprimand
 - (d) speaking before a large group

6. Which of the following can be **blatant**?
 - (a) a refusal
 - (b) an error
 - (c) a denial
 - (d) an admonishment

7. Which of the following might **fluster** a speaker?
 - (a) getting one's notes mixed up
 - (b) taunts from the audience
 - (c) going on past the time allowed
 - (d) forgetting the chairperson's name

8. To which of the following can a person become **addicted**?
 - (a) soap operas
 - (b) alcohol
 - (c) horror movies
 - (d) cigarettes

6D 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.

- addict
- aspire
- bias
- blatant
- candid
- confront
- debut
- enroll
- fluster
- impunity
- intensify
- intimidate
- obnoxious
- retort
- stint

1. blatant	biased	unwanted	impartial	S	A
2. candid	obnoxious	pleasant	silent	S	A
3. reply	aspire	remove	retort	S	A
4. intimidate	stint	increase	scare	S	A
5. candid	devious	addictive	urgent	S	A
6. decrease	enroll	intensify	appear	S	A
7. habit-forming	blatant	unending	addictive	S	A
8. reply	enroll	register	fluster	S	A
9. stint	debut	desire	limit	S	A
10. confront	arrange	fluster	confuse	S	A

6E Passage

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

Out of Her League?

Pam Postema grew up in Willard, Ohio, hooked on sports and with an unusual ambition—she **aspired** to be a major-league baseball umpire. At the time, this seemed like an impossible dream, and no one took her seriously. Postema persisted, however, and in 1977 **enrolled** in the country's top umpiring school. At that time, she was twenty-two and well aware of the strong **bias** against women in professional baseball. Although the school she chose to attend had previously accepted several women, none had completed the course. In its entire history, the school had graduated seven thousand men but not one woman!

The umpiring school's chief instructor treated Postema fairly, and he was very **candid** with her. He told her that her chances of getting a top job in the future were slim. In order to make it into the major leagues, she would have to be twice as good as any man. Postema was determined to succeed, and she did well at the school, graduating seventeenth out of a class of over a hundred students. She began at once to look for a job as a professional baseball umpire.

Within a few months, Postema made her professional **debut** with the Gulf Coast Single A League, and during the next few years, she advanced steadily. In 1983, she began calling plays in the Triple A Pacific League, one step below the majors. It was not easy, though. If a male umpire made a bad call, it was brushed aside. If Postema did the same thing, she was accused of becoming **flustered**. Some baseball fans seized on any errors she made as "proof" that umpiring was not an appropriate occupation for a woman.

Postema believed that a manager would often view a **confrontation** with her as a test of his manhood and that if he failed to **intimidate** her, he felt somehow disgraced. She wanted to show that no one should expect to attack her authority with **impunity**, so she ejected managers and players from the game at twice the rate of other umpires. She even had three spectators thrown out of the ball park for making **obnoxious** remarks about female umpires. Postema admits she sometimes enjoyed arguing, whether with managers, players, or even other umpires. In fact, she says that many umpires are **addicted** to arguing.

In 1988, Postema got a job umpiring the National League spring-training games, where she had to deal with major-league players and managers. When the starting pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates told a reporter that God never intended women to be major-league baseball umpires, Postema **retorted** that she doubted that God was interested in baseball. Not everyone was as **blatant** as the Pirates' pitcher, but the hostility directed against her, far from diminishing, seemed to **intensify** as her career advanced.

Pam Postema's career as a professional baseball umpire was marked by talent and spirit. Her **stint** in the minors had lasted seven years when she was dropped from the official list of umpires. There was nothing unusual about this. After about five years in the minors, most umpires are let go to give others a chance; very few make it into the majors.

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. When did Pam Postema make her first professional public appearance in a major-league game?
2. Did Postema fulfill her chief **aspiration**?
3. How did Postema show that managers could not easily **intimidate** her?
4. According to Postema, what habit is often common in umpires?
5. Why was it especially important for Postema not to get **flustered**?
6. How did three fans learn early on that they couldn't insult Postema with **impunity**?
7. What happens to most minor-league umpires?
8. Why might Postema have had reason to respect her instructor's predictions about her future in the major leagues?
9. Was Postema the first woman to attend the umpiring school?
10. How did the Pirates' pitcher show his **bias**?

11. Was the remark of the Pirates' pitcher typical of other pitchers as well?

12. How did Postema feel about sexist remarks from spectators?

13. Who had the last word in the argument between Postema and the Pirates' pitcher?

14. According to Postema, why did managers often make life difficult for her?

15. How did Postema demonstrate that she was not a quitter?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The English word **candid** comes from the Latin verb *candere*, which means "to shine." Truth is like a light, sometimes exposing what someone might wish to hide. A *candid* person shines the light of truth on something others might wish to conceal.

The Latin verb *punire* means "to punish" and forms the root of several other English words besides *punish* and **impunity**. If a jury awards *punitive* damages to someone who has been injured, the intention is to punish those who caused the injury. If you pay a *penalty*, you are being punished for doing what you shouldn't have done or for failing to do

what you should have done. A state's *penal* system is designed to punish criminals by putting them in jail.

Obnoxious is formed from the Latin *noxā*, meaning "an injury"; so is *noxious*, meaning "harmful" or "unhealthy" (*noxious* gas from car exhaust). The smell from a skunk is *obnoxious* but not *noxious*. Carbon monoxide gas is *noxious* but not *obnoxious* (because it cannot be smelled). Cigarette smoke is *noxious*; it is also *obnoxious* to non-smokers who are sometimes forced to inhale it when someone near them is smoking.