

Lesson 8

Word List

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

acrid

ak' rid

adj. Sharp, irritating, or bitter to the sense of taste or smell.
Burning rubber gives off **acrid** fumes.

casualty

kazh' oō əl tē

n. A person killed or injured in a war or accident.
There were many **casualties** of the 2005 tsunami, or tidal wave, that struck South Asia.

congested

kən jest' əd

adj. 1. Overcrowded; filled too full.
We take the subway during rush hour to avoid the **congested** city streets.
2. Filled with fluid.

My sinuses get **congested** when the pollen count is high.

congestion *n.* 1. The condition of being overcrowded.

The **congestion** inside the furniture store is due to the "Going out of Business" sale.
2. The condition of being filled with fluid.

Most cold remedies claim to relieve **congestion** for at least eight hours.

cope

kōp

v. To manage problems or difficulties successfully.
Extra police were on duty to **cope** with the large crowds expected for the parade.

headlong

hed' lōŋ

adj. With great speed or force; reckless.
The crowd made a **headlong** rush for the best seats as soon as the doors were opened.
adv. Recklessly; without time for careful thought.
It's foolish to rush **headlong** into a dispute that doesn't concern you.

hurtle

hərt' l

v. To move with great force and speed.
A snowball **hurtled** past my ear.

impede

im pēd'

v. To get in the way of; to interfere with the movement of.
An overturned truck **impeded** the flow of traffic.
impediment *n.* (im ped' ə mənt) An obstacle; something that gets in the way.
Poor roads are an **impediment** to travel.

inevitable

in ev' ə tə bəl

adj. Bound to happen; unavoidable.
A certain amount of wear on even the best tires is **inevitable** with normal use.

initiate

i nish' ē āt

v. 1. To put into effect; to bring into use.
The school **initiated** the new dress code on September 6.
2. To take in as a member.
The National Honor Society **initiated** thirty new members last evening.
initiation *n.* (i nish' ē ā' shən) 1. The act of beginning.
The **initiation** of the new traffic plan has been delayed until the road is repaired.
2. The ceremony or process that makes one a member.
A celebration followed the **initiation** of new members into the San Francisco Film Society.

irate
i rāt

adj. Very angry; furious.

Irate citizens demanded that the chemical company stop polluting the lake.

lax
laks

adj. 1. Not strictly enforced; undemanding; careless.

Frequent inspections are designed to ensure that airline safety procedures have not become **lax**.

2. Not tight; loose.

When I felt the rope go **lax**, I knew that my partner had dropped the other end.

negligent
neg lə jənt

adj. Failing to take proper care of or to give proper attention to.

You were **negligent** in failing to lock the car doors.

negligence *n.* The quality, state, or act of being negligent.

When I went on vacation, my houseplants died because of my roommate's **negligence**.

smolder
smōl dər

v. 1. To burn slowly without bursting into flames.

Hot ashes **smolder** long after the flames have died down.

2. To exist in a hidden state before bursting into the open.

A desire for freedom **smoldered** in the hearts of the people who left Cuba for Miami.

stringent
strin jənt

adj. Strict; severe.

The **stringent** rules state that no exceptions can be made.

throng
thrŏŋ

n. A large number of people gathered together; a crowd.

A **throng** of supporters cheered the president's arrival in Seattle.

v. To gather or move in large numbers.

Fans **thronged** into the ballpark for the first game of the World Series.

8A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 8. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) Initiation is (c) a ceremony welcoming new members.
(b) Negligence is (d) unnecessary waste.

2. (a) fail to pay proper attention. (c) To smolder is to
(b) exist in a hidden state. (d) To hurtle is to

3. (a) Negligence is (c) Congestion is
(b) a state of nervousness or fear. (d) the lack of proper attention.

4. (a) gives off an irritating smell. (c) Something that is stringent
(b) burns rapidly. (d) Something that is acrid
5. (a) be prostrate with grief. (c) be filled with fluid.
(b) To be congested is to (d) To be lax is to
6. (a) A headlong rush is one that (c) could have been prevented.
(b) An inevitable rush is one that (d) is bound to happen.
7. (a) To impede a new set of rules (c) is to deal successfully with them.
(b) To cope with a new set of rules (d) is to introduce them.
8. (a) A casualty is (c) something that holds one back.
(b) an accident causing death or injury. (d) An impediment is
9. (a) A headlong exit is one (c) An irate reply is one
(b) that is made in a great hurry. (d) that should not have been made.
10. (a) a person who is killed or injured. (c) A casualty is
(b) a member of a group. (d) A throng is

acrid
casualty
congested
cope
headlong
hurtle
impede
inevitable
initiate
irate
lax
negligent
smolder
stringent
throng

8B 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 8.

- Changing schools in midyear is difficult, but I'm sure you will **be able to deal successfully with your new situation.**
- Travelers had to cope with **great numbers of slowly moving vehicles** on the highway over the Labor Day weekend.
- The bank's rules are so **strictly enforced** that managers have very little latitude when making loans.

4. The garage was found **to have failed to take proper care** in repairing the car's brakes, so it was held responsible for the accident.
5. The voters were **extremely angry** when the governor broke a promise not to raise taxes.
6. A huge rock **moved with great speed and force** down the side of the mountain.
7. School discipline was **not strictly enforced**; as a result, students' grades suffered.
8. Crowds **were present in large numbers at** the airport to greet the Olympic team.
9. A sailboat ran aground and **got in the way of** other vessels entering the harbor.
10. Make sure the campfire is out, or it will continue to **burn even though it may not actually burst into flame**.

8C 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 suffer from **congestion**?
 - (a) city streets
 - (b) a theater lobby
 - (c) a car
 - (d) the passages in one's nose
2. Which of the following can be **initiated**?
 - (a) a new member
 - (b) a new project
 - (c) a new rule
 - (d) a new year
3. Which of the following can **throng**?
 - (a) a pair of horses
 - (b) a pile of stones
 - (c) a flock of seagulls
 - (d) a crowd of people
4. Which of the following often result in **casualties**?
 - (a) a plane crash
 - (b) a wrestling match
 - (c) a war
 - (d) an earthquake
5. Which of the following can **smolder**?
 - (a) a fire
 - (b) anger
 - (c) resentment
 - (d) a flood

6. Which of the following can be **lax**?
- (a) a metal bar (c) supervision
(b) a fishing line (d) rules
7. Which of the following could **hurtle** through the air?
- (a) a jet fighter (c) a falling rock
(b) a baseball (d) a snowflake
8. Which of the following is **inevitable**?
- (a) growing older (c) increased world population
(b) getting sick (d) change in our daily lives

8D Word Study

Read these Latin words and their meanings. Then fill in the blank spaces in the sentences below. The vocabulary words are from this lesson or earlier lessons.

aspirare (to climb)

delectare (to delight)

initium (beginning)

ira (anger)

laxus (loose)

littera (letter)

novus (new)

noxa (injury)

poena (punishment)

stringere (to tie or bind)

- _____ rules are loosely enforced. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- A _____ item is one that pleases the sense of taste. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- A _____ substance is one that can damage your health. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To act with _____ is to act without fear of being punished. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- An _____ customer is one who is very angry. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To _____ a new system is to start using it. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
- To _____ a building is to make it like new again. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

acrid
casualty
congested
cope
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hurtle
impede
inevitable
initiate
irate
lax
negligent
smolder
stringent
through

8. An _____ person is one who is unfamiliar with how the letters of the alphabet are used. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
9. A _____ budget is one that is tightly controlled. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
10. To _____ to a career in acting is to have a strong desire for it. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

8E Passage

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

The Triangle Fire

A hundred years ago, American industry was growing fast and needed workers badly. It found them in the millions of immigrants who poured into the United States from Europe. Most passed through Ellis Island in New York Harbor with little money and few possessions, and many went no farther than New York City in their search for jobs. Young women found employment in the overcrowded, unsanitary, and unsafe factories of the city's garment district. In these sweatshops they worked long hours for low wages. Fire inspections were **lax**, and fire equipment was inadequate. It was **inevitable** that tragedy would strike sooner or later.

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, the top three floors of a ten-story building on New York's Lower East Side were crowded with women working for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company. Late in the afternoon, a bin containing waste fabric on the eighth floor began to **smolder**. No one noticed until it suddenly burst into flames. Women in the crowded workroom tried frantically to put out the rapidly spreading fire, but their efforts were in vain. **Acrid** smoke filled the room, and many of the women, coughing, choking, and unable to see where they were going, were trampled in the **headlong** rush for the only unlocked door in the workroom. The owners of the company kept the other doors locked to prevent women from slipping outside into the hallway for a break when they were supposed to be working.

Those who fled into the heavily **congested** hallway found that just one elevator was working; only twelve women were able to use it. The fire escape collapsed under the weight of people crowding onto it. The narrow stairway, less than three feet wide, **impeded** the movement of the women, leaving many trapped. More than forty women jumped from windows and **hurtled** to their deaths eighty-five feet below; others flung themselves down the elevator shaft in desperate attempts to escape. Firefighters at the scene were unable to **cope** with the situation. Water from their hoses failed to reach the flames because the pressure was too low, and their ladders reached only to the sixth floor.

A **throng** estimated at over a hundred thousand people attended the mass funeral of the victims of the fire. Incredible as it sounds, an official inquiry later found that the Triangle Shirtwaist Company had not been guilty of **negligence**. **Irate** citizens demanded that such a tragedy never be allowed to happen again; and, as a result of the fire, new safety measures were **initiated**. Laws dealing with building safety were made more **stringent**, and firefighting equipment and methods were improved. But the changes came too late for the unfortunate 145 women who were **casualties** of New York's Triangle fire.

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. Why did the fleeing women have trouble breathing?

2. What happened to the women who jumped from the windows?

3. What was the number of victims of the Triangle fire?

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

5. Did anything good result from the Triangle fire?

6. What did the official inquiry fail to do?

7. Why were the citizens of New York **irate**?

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

9. How did the narrowness of the stairway contribute to the disaster?

10. Did the women leave the work area in an orderly manner?

11. How did their inadequate equipment hamper the firefighters?

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

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

14. How did the people of New York pay their respects to the dead women?

15. What was so terrible about the lack of concern by the authorities?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Initiate and *begin* are synonyms, but their meanings carry a difference that should be noted. *Begin* is the general, all-purpose word for the start of something; one can *begin* anything from a sentence to a world war! *Initiate* has a narrower meaning; it suggests taking the first in a series of major steps. (A president may *initiate* a new trade policy; a company may *initiate* new hiring practices.)

Initiative is the first step in bringing something about. (I took the *initiative* by demanding a change.)

Initiative is also the ability to get things done without waiting to be told. (You must show *initiative* if you wish to be promoted.)

Negligent means "failing to give proper attention to" and is formed from the verb *neglect*. Another adjective, *negligible*, is formed from this verb; it means "so small or unimportant that it can be neglected or ignored." (The cost of floor mats was *negligible* compared to the price of the car.)