

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

- A *slug* is like a snail but without the shell; it moves just about as fast as a snail, which is very slow indeed. *Slug* comes from an old Scandinavian word *slugje*, which means “a heavy, slow person.” Both the noun *slug* and the adjective **sluggish** are formed from this word.
- Don't confuse *tapir*, the name for a large piglike animal that lives in the forests of Central and South America, with **taper**. These two words sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. Can you remember what such pairs of words are called?



Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

access
ak' ses

n. 1. Freedom or permission to enter.
The students want **access** to the gym this summer.

2. A way of approach or entry.
The only **access** to the harbor is this channel.

accessible *adj.* Able to be used or entered.
Franklin's Restaurant is **accessible** to people in wheelchairs.

associate
ə sō' shē āt

v. 1. To bring together in the mind.
Many people **associate** lobsters with Maine.

2. To come or be together as friends or companions.
Because of her love of racehorses, Anne often **associated** with others who shared that love—jockeys and trainers.

n. (ə sō' shē ət) A person with whom one is connected in some way, as in business.
My father discussed the offer of a job in Chicago with his **associate** at work.

boisterous
bois' tər əs

adj. Noisy and uncontrolled.
The Dixons' party became so **boisterous** that their neighbors complained.

brilliant
bril' yənt

adj. 1. Very bright; sparkling.
My black patent-leather shoes had a **brilliant** shine.

2. Very clever or smart.
Einstein's **brilliant** mind was already evident in his youth.

decade
dek' əd

n. A ten-year period.
Some people look back with nostalgia to the **decade** of the 1960s.

delicate
del' i kət

adj. 1. Easily broken or damaged.
We always wash this **delicate** china by hand.

2. Needing care and skill.
Explaining someone's death to a small child is a **delicate** task.

3. In poor health; weak.
Although Isabella Bird Bishop was a **delicate** child, as an adult, she traveled through many different parts of the world, sometimes by canoe and other times on horseback.

employ
em ploi'

- v. 1. To hire and put to work for pay.
Carmen's gift shop **employs** four people.
2. To use.
The clown **employed** every trick he knew to make the children laugh.

idle
i' dəl

- adj.* Doing nothing; not working.
The workers were **idle** while the power was shut off.
- v. 1. To spend one's time doing nothing.
Last Sunday, while my brother **idled** for more than an hour in the house, I raked leaves in the yard.
2. To run (an engine) slowly.
Let the car **idle** for a few minutes so that the engine can warm up.

illuminate
il lōō' mə nāt

- v. 1. To light up; to supply with light.
The full moon **illuminated** the path through the woods to our cabin.
2. To make clear or understandable.
What you say about Goya's life **illuminates** this painting for me.

provide
prō vīd'

- v. 1. To give what is needed; to supply.
Two local companies **provided** the money to buy our school band uniforms.
2. To set forth as a condition.
Our agreement with the company **provides** for three weeks of vacation time.

require
rē kwīr'

- v. To need or demand.
Plants **require** light and water in order to grow.
- requirement** *n.* Something that is necessary.
A place to sleep and a simple meal were Johnny Appleseed's only **requirements**.

taunt
tōnt

- v. To make fun of in an insulting way; to jeer.
Don't **taunt** someone just because that person appears different.
- n.* An insulting remark.
An umpire learns to ignore the **taunts** of the crowd and just gets on with the job.

tolerant
tāl' ə r ə nt

- adj.* Willing to let others have their own beliefs and ways, even if different from one's own.
Traveling is both interesting and enjoyable if you are **tolerant** of customs that seem strange to you.
- tolerate** *v.* To accept willingly and without complaining.
You learn to **tolerate** a certain amount of noise when you live near an airport.

transform
trans fôrm'

v. To change the form, looks, or nature of.
A fresh coat of paint will **transform** this room.

transformation n. A complete change.
The **transformation** of the frog into a prince comes at the end of the story.

wilderness
wil' dər nəs

n. An area where there are few people living; an area still in its natural state.
The Rocky Mountain states contain large areas of **wilderness**.

14A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 14. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) is unusually smart. (c) A brilliant child is one who
(b) A delicate child is one who (d) is noisy and rough.

2. (a) give that person a job. (c) To employ someone is to
(b) give that person a second chance. (d) To tolerate someone is to

3. (a) give it up. (c) To require something is to
(b) To provide something is to (d) need it.

4. (a) Wilderness is (c) a way of entering.
(b) remoteness in space or time. (d) Access is

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5. (a) a business partner. (c) A decade is
(b) An associate is (d) an insulting remark.
-
-

6. (a) to light it up. (c) To transform a room is
(b) To illuminate a room is (d) to make it available.
-
-

7. (a) An idle person is one who is (c) noisy and rough.
(b) A boisterous person is one (d) hard to talk to.
who is
-
-

8. (a) a reassuring remark. (c) A transformation is
(b) A taunt is (d) a complete change.
-
-

9. (a) one that runs sluggishly. (c) one that is easy to get to.
(b) An accessible machine is (d) An idle machine is
-
-

10. (a) is to put up with it. (c) To tolerate something
(b) To provide something (d) is to do without it.
-
-

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 14.

1. Much of Alaska is **land that is still in its natural state** that needs to be protected.
2. In cold weather, let the engine **run slowly** for a few minutes before you drive anyplace.
3. Samantha hated school because some of her classmates **made fun of** her for the way she spoke.
4. The **ten-year period** that ended in 1929 was called "the Roaring Twenties."
5. These new curtains will **completely change the appearance of** this bedroom.
6. The matter is **one that needs careful handling**, but I am confident that you can take care of it.
7. This new health insurance will **make sure that you will be covered** for full payment of medical expenses.
8. This book **makes clear and understandable** how the two scientists figured out the structure of DNA.
9. I would be happier if my older sister were more **willing to overlook the faults of others** and less rigid.
10. One **thing that is necessary** to attend the new school is a uniform.

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Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might an **idle** person do?
(a) watch television (c) win an Olympic medal
(b) bask in the sun (d) write a book

2. Which of the following could be a means of **access**?
(a) a door (c) an opening
(b) a wall (d) a window

3. Which of the following are closely **associated**?
(a) baseball and summer (c) Hansel and Gretel
(b) salt and pepper (d) snowflakes and cornflakes

4. Which of the following can be **brilliant**?
(a) a diamond (c) moonlight
(b) an idea (d) a student

5. Which of the following can be **delicate**?
(a) a china plate (c) a rescue
(b) a problem (d) a person's health

6. Which of the following is a **decade**?
(a) the 1990s (c) the 1700s
(b) from 1901 to 1999 (d) 120 months

7. Which of the following might one find in a **wilderness**?
(a) schools (c) a herd of deer
(b) trees (d) a shopping mall

8. Which of the following would you not **tolerate**?
(a) cheating (c) crime
(b) obedience (d) prosperity

The Greek word for “ten” is *deka*; it was borrowed by the Romans and became *deca*. Much later, the word was borrowed once again, this time by English-speaking people. It is found in several English words, among them *decade*, a period of ten years.

The names of several other Latin numbers have found their way into English words. Here are four of them:

mon or *mono* (one)

bi (two)

tri (three)

quad (four)

Use the Latin form of the numbers one, two, three, or four to complete each of the words. If done correctly, each word will match the definition.

1. _____angle a figure with three straight sides
2. _____rured an animal with four legs
3. _____archy rule by one person, a king or a queen
4. _____tonous sounding just one note without varying
5. _____ped a creature that walks upright on two legs
6. _____pod a stand with three legs for supporting a camera
7. _____poly control by one group over what is bought and sold
8. _____cycle a vehicle with two wheels
9. _____ple three times as many
10. _____ruple four times as many
11. _____noculars field glasses with two sets of lenses
12. _____rangle an open space with four straight sides

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Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Wizard of Menlo Park



Like other cities and towns in the late 1800s, New York City was a gloomy place at night. Streets were lit by flickering gas lights, if they were lit at all. Oil lamps or candles were all that people had to **illuminate** their homes. Thomas Edison had a better idea. In 1881, he built the world's first electric power station in Manhattan. He helped change New York into the **brilliantly** lit city we know today.

Edison was born in Ohio in 1847. When he was a small child, his family moved to Port Huron, Michigan. An attack of scarlet fever left him in **delicate** health. This worried his parents; they did not allow him to join in the **boisterous** games played at his school. The other children were not very **tolerant** of someone who stood apart from the rest, and young Edison had to suffer their **taunts**. His mother, who was a teacher, decided to take him out of school. She taught him at home, where he learned quickly. He asked many questions and liked to experiment on his own to find answers.

At that time, much of Michigan was **wilderness**. But the railroad was **transforming** America by making even the most remote places **accessible** to the rest of the country. When the railroad came to Port Huron, it **provided** Edison with his first job. At the age of twelve, he was given permission to sell newspapers and candy on the train that ran between his hometown and Detroit. He even printed his own newspaper, which he sold for three cents a copy.

At sixteen, he started working full-time on the railroad. For the next four years, he was **employed** as a telegraph operator in different towns. However, there were large portions of the day when he had nothing to do, and Thomas Edison hated to be **idle**. In addition, he **required** only five or six hours of sleep a night. So it was during this time that he began working on inventions along with his experiments.

At twenty-one, he invented an electrical vote counter, for which he was given a patent. This meant that the government identified him as the person who thought up the idea and protected it so that it could not be made or sold by others without his permission. When he was thirty, Edison established a research center at Menlo Park, New Jersey. There he and his **associates** ran what was really an inventions factory.

Over the next five **decades**, Edison was granted over a thousand patents by the United States government. Perhaps his most famous invention was the electric light bulb. Other inventions included the record player (which he called a phonograph) and the movie camera. These things seemed like magic to people; it isn't surprising that he became known as the "Wizard of Menlo Park." The once sickly child outlived most of his schoolmates—when he died in 1931, he was eighty-four years old.

▶ Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. How does the passage make clear that there were few towns in Michigan during Edison's youth?

2. In what way was the railroad important in Edison's early life?

3. With what invention do most people **associate** Edison?

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

5. Why might Edison have been reluctant to go to school?

6. What **boisterous** activities might Edison's schoolmates have engaged in?

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7. What details in the passage show that Edison's mother would not **tolerate** the behavior of Edison's classmates?

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

9. Why did Edison have **access** to the train from Port Huron to Detroit?

10. As a young man, how did Edison **employ** a lot of his free time?

11. What is the meaning of **idle** as it is used in the passage?

12. How did Edison change New York City?

13. How would you describe Edison's mind?

14. What must one do to protect a new invention from being copied by others?

15. How long did Edison live?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

- Several nouns are formed from the verb **employ**. An *employee* is a person who works for someone else and is paid for this. An *employer* is a person who gives work to others and pays them. *Employment* is the state of having work or the work itself.
- **Idle** and *idol* are homophones. An *idol* is something, such as a carved figure, that is worshiped as a god. It can also be a person, such as a movie star, who is admired.
- **Illuminate** comes from *lumen* the Latin word for "light." Other English words formed from this root include *luminous*, glowing with light, and *luminosity*, the amount of light given off, usually from within a thing itself, for example, a star. (The star with the greatest *luminosity*, apart from our own sun, is Sirius, also known as the Dog Star.)

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