



Word List

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

dormant
dôr' mən't

adj. 1. In a sleeplike state.
Groundhogs remain **dormant** through the winter.

2. Not active, but able to become active.
Japan's Mount Fuji is a **dormant** volcano.

elegant
el' ə gənt

adj. Graceful or refined in appearance or behavior.
The tiny curved numbers and the slender hands made the old silver watch an **elegant** timepiece.

erupt
ē rupt'

v. To burst forth violently.
The queen **erupted** in anger when told she must abdicate.

eruption *n.* A violent bursting forth.
The **eruption** of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 caused immense damage.

excavate
eks' kə vāt

v. 1. To dig out.
The backhoe will **excavate** this spot near the pine tree to create the basement of our new house.

2. To uncover by digging.
Heinrich Schliemann began to **excavate** the ancient city of Troy in 1871.

excavation *n.* The place formed by digging or the process of digging out.
The **excavation** of Cahuachi, Peru, uncovered many pieces of pottery from the ancient Nazca culture.

expel
ek spel'

v. 1. To eject; to release, as from a container.
Electric cars help keep the air clean because they don't **expel** poisonous gases.

2. To force to leave.
The school reserves the right to **expel** students for serious offenses.

fume
fyōm

n. (usually plural) A disagreeable smoke or gas.
Fumes from passing trucks and buses have damaged the oak trees.

v. To feel or show anger or resentment.
My father **fumed** when he discovered that I had left my bicycle out in the rain all night.

molten
mōlt' n

adj. Made liquid by heat; melted.
At Colonial Williamsburg, we watched women make tapers by pouring **molten** wax into thin molds.

painstaking
pānz' tāk in

adj. Showing or taking great care or effort.
After a **painstaking** search of the house, we found our missing car keys.

perish
per' ish

v. To die; to be killed or destroyed.
Approximately ten million people **perished** in World War I.

population
päp yōō lā' shən

n. 1. The total number of people in a certain place.
The **population** of the town declined by almost a quarter over the past decade.

2. The total number of plants or animals in a certain area.
The elm tree **population** decreased greatly after the 1930s because of Dutch elm disease.

populate *v.* To fill with people.
The English began to **populate** Australia at the end of the eighteenth century.

prelude
prel' yōōd

n. 1. Something that comes before or introduces the main part.
The October frost was a **prelude** to a harsh winter.

2. A short musical piece played as an introduction.
Suzanne played a piano **prelude** for the spring recital.

scald
skōld

v. To burn with hot liquid or steam.
Boiling water from the overturned saucepan **scalded** the child's leg.

scalding *adj.* Very hot.
The bath water was **scalding**, so I added some cold water.

stupendous
stōō pen' dəs

adj. Amazing because it is very great or very large.
It took a **stupendous** effort to return the beached whales to the water.

suffocate
suf' ə kāt

v. To kill or die by stopping access to air.
The trapped miners **suffocated** when their air supply was cut off.

suffocation *n.* The act or process of suffocating.
Keep plastic bags away from young children to avoid any chance of **suffocation**.

tremor
trem'ər

n. 1. A shaking movement.

Tremors following the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake continued for several weeks.

2. A nervous or excited feeling.

When I heard the front door creak open, a **tremor** of fear ran through me.

19A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 19. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) forbid people to go into it. (c) To populate an area is to
(b) fill it with people. (d) To excavate an area is to

2. (a) To perish (c) To fume
(b) is to tire easily. (d) is to die.

3. (a) break up into smaller parts. (c) To suffocate is to
(b) burst out violently. (d) To erupt is to

4. (a) An excavated building is one (c) that is beautifully designed.
(b) An elegant building is one (d) that has been completely rebuilt.

5. (a) that is amazingly large. (c) A stupendous job is one
(b) A painstaking job is one (d) that is very boring.

6. (a) To scald is (c) to burn with a hot liquid.
(b) To expel is (d) to taunt.
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7. (a) To be painstaking is to (c) take very great care.
(b) be careless of others' feelings. (d) To be dormant is to
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8. (a) be prevented from getting air. (c) To erupt is to
(b) be permitted to enter. (d) To suffocate is to
-
-

9. (a) Something that is molten is (c) made liquid by heat.
(b) easily damaged. (d) Something that is dormant is
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10. (a) Fumes are (c) harmful gases.
(b) Tremors are (d) burns caused by hot liquids.
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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 19.

1. **His being unable to breathe** was the cause of his death.
2. When the pipe broke, there was a sudden **bursting out** of steam.
3. The **total number of people living** in the city of New York is over eight million.
4. Some of the passengers began to **feel very angry** when told the train would be an hour late.
5. Chopin transformed the **short musical piece played as an introduction** into a form that is complete in itself.
6. The maple trees that line the driveway are **in an inactive state with no signs of life** during the winter.
7. Parkinson's disease causes **rapid back and forth shaking movements** in the hands.
8. The Martian volcano known as Olympus Mons is **amazing because of its great size**.
9. The **process of digging a hole in the ground** revealed the remains of an ancient Chinese temple.
10. The school suspended the minor offenders, but those guilty of major offenses were **forced to leave for good**.

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

- Which of the following could be **excavated**?

(a) a hole	(c) soil
(b) a secret	(d) a buried city
- Which of the following can be **dormant**?

(a) a volcano	(c) a tree
(b) a rock	(d) an animal
- Which of the following can **scald** someone?

(a) a hot beverage	(c) a hot temper
(b) a hot iron	(d) a hot day
- Which of the following could be **elegant**?

(a) an aroma	(c) a meal
(b) a restaurant	(d) a dress
- Which of the following can **perish**?

(a) people	(c) hope
(b) time	(d) freedom
- Which of the following can cause **tremors**?

(a) a sickness	(c) excitement
(b) an earthquake	(d) fear
- Which of the following can **erupt**?

(a) an excited crowd	(c) an active volcano
(b) a riot	(d) an angry character
- Which of the following can give off **fumes**?

(a) a faulty oil furnace	(c) an angry person
(b) a car's exhaust	(d) a lighted oil lamp

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The prefix *ex-* means "out." An *exit* is a way out.

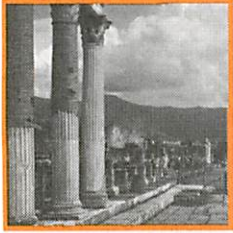
Supply the missing word in each sentence. Choose each word from this list.

exult	excavate	expel	extract	extinct
export	expand	experiment	exasperate	exhale

1. To _____ cream from milk is to take the cream out.
2. To _____ is to cry out for joy.
3. To become _____ is to die out completely.
4. To _____ is to try something out to see if it works.
5. To _____ something is to send it out of the country.
6. To _____ is to spread out.
7. To _____ someone is to force that person out.
8. To _____ something is to dig it out of the ground.
9. To _____ someone is to wear out that person's patience.
10. To _____ is to breathe out.

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

The Lost City



Two thousand years ago, Pompeii was a prosperous town with a **population** of perhaps twenty thousand people. It was a busy port located on the Sarnus River, near the Bay of Naples. That is about a hundred and thirty miles south of Rome. Rich landowners and retired Roman citizens built **elegant** homes in the town and paid for its fine public buildings and temples. The town was nestled in the shadow of four-thousand-foot high Mount Vesuvius. Local farmers cultivated grapes in the mountainside's fertile soil as they had done for centuries.

In 62 C.E., the town was shaken by **tremors** from an earthquake; for the next seventeen years, the people worked to repair the damage. They were not then aware of the danger they were in. If they had known what we know today, that earthquake would have been a warning to them. **Stupendous** forces were slowly building deep beneath the surface; the earthquake was merely the **prelude** to a far worse disaster.

Mount Vesuvius is a volcano. It had been **dormant** for eight hundred years; there had been no activity during this time. That was because a thick layer of **molten** rock, called lava, had hardened to form a plug, sealing off the mouth of the volcano like a cork in a bottle. Over the centuries, pressure deep below the earth's surface had been slowly building up inside the volcano. On August 24, 79 C.E., it became so great that the plug of lava was suddenly **expelled** in a tremendous explosion.

So violent was the explosion that the top of the mountain was blown off. Cracks appeared in the earth. Water, heated to boiling by fires beneath the earth's crust, thrust its way to the surface. People and animals were **scalded** as they tried to flee. Smoke, poisonous **fumes**, and ash from the volcano filled the air, **suffocating** many people in their homes. Buildings were crushed by huge rocks hurled from the volcano. Then came a series of avalanches that buried the town, together with everything in it, in twenty feet of stones, cinders, and volcanic ash.

A vivid description of the **eruption** of Vesuvius was given by Pliny the Younger, who later became a famous Roman statesman. He was eighteen years old at the time. Pliny the Younger watched the disaster from twenty miles away on the other side of the bay. His uncle sailed to Pompeii to save

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the lives of some friends, but died during the attempt. Pliny the Younger described the tragic events of that day in letters he wrote many years later.

For centuries Pompeii lay buried and forgotten. It was not until 1763 that the **excavation** of the ruins first began. **Painstaking** digging revealed streets and buildings filled with the objects of everyday life. Also uncovered were the bodies of the more than two thousand people who **perished** on that terrible day nearly two thousand years ago when the sleeping volcano suddenly woke up.

- ▶ 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. What did the **excavations** at Pompeii reveal?

2. Why were the citizens of Pompeii unconcerned about Mount Vesuvius?

3. What is the meaning of **prelude** as it is used in the passage?

4. What evidence is there that some of Pompeii's people were wealthy?

5. What is the meaning of **tremors** as it is used in the passage?

6. What happened when the pressure inside the volcano became too great?

7. Why did the explosion of Vesuvius have such **stupendous** force?

8. What materials were thrust from the volcano when it exploded?

9. What is the meaning of **expelled** as it is used in the passage?

10. Why do you think uncovering Pompeii was such **painstaking** work?

11. Why did the underground water from Vesuvius cause deaths and injuries?

12. Why was the air at Pompeii dangerous to breathe?

13. What happened to Pliny the Younger's uncle?

14. How large was Pompeii?

15. What were the three major causes of death at Pompeii?

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FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

- The dormouse is a European animal resembling a small squirrel. It hibernates in winter. This sleep-like state is what gives it its name: the Latin for "sleep" is *dormire*. The first part of this word combines with *mouse* to form *dormouse*. Other English words formed from this Latin word are **dormant** and *dormitory*, a place where people sleep.
- The noun and adjective *perishable* are formed from the verb **perish**. *Perishable* foods spoil quickly, and *perishables* are any foods, such as tomatoes and lettuce, that spoil quickly.
- What do *premature* (Word List 3), *previous* (Word List 5), *predict* (Word List 15), and **prelude** all have in common? All four are formed from the Latin prefix *pre-*, which means "before." And notice where a *prefix* is found. It comes *before* the rest of the word.

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ample
am' pəl*adj.* 1. Plenty; more than enough.One large turkey will provide **ample** food for eight people.

2. Large in size.

A heavy gold watch chain hung across his **ample** stomach.**burden**
bɜrd' n*n.* 1. Something that is carried, especially a heavy load.Carrying his frail son on his shoulder was never a **burden**, Bob Cratchit explained.

2. Anything that is hard to bear.

The **burden** of caring for four sick children was too much for the babysitter.*v.* To add to what one has to bear.Don't **burden** your grandparents with this problem.**compassion**
kəm pəsh' ən*n.* A feeling of sharing the suffering of others and of wanting to help; sympathy; pity.Shazia's **compassion** for the homeless led to her working each weekend at the soup kitchen.**compassionate** *adj.* The state of showing compassion.The doctor's **compassionate** manner made her loved by all of her patients.**comply**
kəm plī'*v.* To act in agreement with a rule or another's wishes.Unless you **comply** with the requirement to wear shoes, you cannot enter the restaurant.**cumbersome**
kəm' bər səm*adj.* Awkward and hard to handle; unwieldy.The crate of oranges was **cumbersome**, but the clerk managed to get it up the stairs.**distress**
di stres'*v.* To cause pain or sorrow; to trouble or worry.It **distresses** me that no one offered to help when they saw the accident.*n.* Pain, sorrow, or worry.The **distress** of a divorce is felt especially hard by the children involved.