

## Word List

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

**claustrophobia**  
klôs trə fō' bē ə

*n.* An abnormal fear of narrow, enclosed spaces.

Although Juanita is in the Navy, her **claustrophobia** prevents her from serving in submarines.

**colleague**  
kāl' ēg

*n.* An associate or coworker of similar status.

On her birthday, Mom's **colleagues** surprised her by taking her out to lunch.

**condescend**  
kən də send'

*v.* 1. To lower oneself to a position one considers inferior.

Sarita said she would never **condescend** to respond to the jealous person who stole her new shoes.

2. To behave in an offensively superior manner.

During rehearsals, the star of the show never **condescended** to join the rest of the cast for lunch; instead he ate alone in his dressing room.

**condescending** *adj.* Showing an offensively superior manner.

Lucinda's **condescending** attitude is not what we want in our elementary school tutors.



.....  
*Discuss with your partner why you think it is so frustrating to be spoken to in a condescending way.*

**contingent**  
kən tɪn' jənt

*adj.* 1. Conditional; depending on something else.

Jackson's plans for attending the university were **contingent** on receiving a scholarship.

2. Likely, but not certain to happen; possible.

If it rains, our **contingent** plan is to move the strawberry festival from the school lawn to the auditorium.

*n.* A group that is part of a larger one.

The Ethiopian **contingent** led the parade of Olympic athletes into the stadium.



.....  
*Talk to your partner about something you would like to do that is contingent on your parents' approval.*

**daunt**  
dônt

*v.* To discourage or intimidate.

Learning that she needed medical treatment did not **daunt** Miranda but instead gave her hope for her future.

**daunting** *adj.* So difficult or dangerous as to discourage or intimidate.

The people who joined Lewis and Clark's **daunting** quest were truly courageous.



.....  
*Tell your partner about the most daunting thing you have ever dreamed of doing.*

**deluge**  
del' yōōj

*n.* 1. A downpour of rain; a flood.

Opening the dam just north of the Grand Canyon sent a **deluge** to the dry river beds in the canyon.

2. A flood of anything.

When the Moghadams advertised their new car for such a low price, they received a **deluge** of offers to buy.

*v.* To flood or overwhelm.

As she convalesced from her surgery, Delia's friends **deluged** her with cards, phone calls, and visits.



.....  
*Talk to your partner about which of your classes deluges you with the most homework.*

**dispel**  
di spel'

*v.* To clear away; to remove or get rid of, as if by scattering.

I wanted Tanis to reassure me, but her letter, instead of **dispelling** my fears, increased them.



.....  
*Share with your partner a way you have found to dispel your fears about something.*

**dub**  
dub

*v.* To give a title, nickname, or description to.

The pirate Edward Teach has been **dubbed** "Blackbeard."

**fanfare**  
fan' fār

*n.* 1. A sounding of trumpets or other brass instruments.

When the president strides into the auditorium, he is greeted with loud **fanfare**.

2. Any showy display.

The props manager, working behind the scenes without **fanfare**, was essential to the overall effect of the play.

**fledgling**  
flej' lin

*n.* 1. A young bird just learning to fly.

The **fledglings** took short trial flights over the yard from their nest on the porch.

2. A young and inexperienced person.

The reporter, a **fledgling**, forgot to get the eyewitness's name.

*adj.* New and untested.

My **fledgling** website has been very busy this month.



.....  
*Discuss with your partner some things you could do to help a fledgling teacher.*

**inane**  
in ān'

*adj.* Empty; shallow or silly.

Susan, bored by the **inane** chatter of her classmates, went back to reading her book.

**inanity** *n.* (in an' ə tē) Foolishness; a silly or pointless act.

Hearing the **inanity** of his own response made Bruno understand how exhausted and in need of sleep he really was.

**mettle**  
met' l

*n.* Courage to bear up under difficult circumstances; spirit.  
In spite of the bully's threats, the children showed their **mettle** by refusing to say anything about their friend.

**negligible**  
neg' li jə bəl

*adj.* Small and unimportant, not worth noticing.  
The team's mistakes in the final tournament were **negligible**, having no effect on the result.



.....  
*Talk to your partner about some negligible things you did this morning before school.*

**protract**  
prō trakt'

*v.* To draw out or lengthen (in time).  
Our trip was **protracted** unnecessarily because my dad drove right past the correct exit.

**replica**  
rep' li kə

*n.* A copy or reproduction, especially one on a smaller scale than the original.  
A **replica** of the Statue of Liberty stood on my grandmother's shelf, a reminder of her first glimpse of her new country.

**7A**

**Finding Meanings**

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 7. Then write the sentence.

- 1. (a) A contingent is
- (b) A colleague is
- (c) a coworker with equal status.
- (d) an inexperienced person.

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- 2. (a) fear of enclosed spaces.
- (b) Mettle is
- (c) a breakdown of the social order.
- (d) Claustrophobia is

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- 3. (a) a flood of it.
- (b) A replica of something is
- (c) A deluge of something is
- (d) a showy display of it.

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## 7C

## Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

- Of which of the following could a **replica** be made?
  - a rebuff
  - the *Bounty*
  - an ancient coin
  - a dinosaur bone
- Which of the following could be called a **fledgling**?
  - a chick that is about to hatch
  - an inexperienced waiter
  - a robin testing its wings
  - a two-star general
- Which of the following can be **condescending**?
  - a remark
  - an attitude
  - a person
  - an elevator
- With which of the following can one be **deluged**?
  - offers
  - mail
  - orders
  - water
- Which of the following would have **colleagues**?
  - a doctor
  - a lawyer
  - a recluse
  - a college professor
- Which of the following might a person suffering from **claustrophobia** avoid?
  - open spaces
  - heights
  - elevators
  - narrow tunnels
- Which of the following could be **negligible**?
  - an amount of time lost
  - a careless driver
  - a sum of money
  - an amount of damage
- Which of the following can be **dispelled**?
  - fear
  - suspicion
  - doubts
  - fog

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colleague

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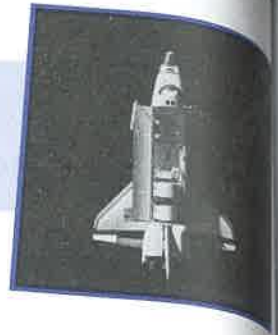
replica



## Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

Each group of four words contains either two synonyms or two antonyms. Circle that pair. Then circle the S if they are synonyms or the A if they are antonyms.

- |                |            |             |           |   |   |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|
| 1. annoy       | name       | deluge      | dub       | S | A |
| 2. fanfare     | courage    | welcome     | mettle    | S | A |
| 3. rankle      | shorten    | protract    | deluge    | S | A |
| 4. condescend  | frighten   | daunt       | lengthen  | S | A |
| 5. contingent  | expert     | colleague   | fledgling | S | A |
| 6. conspire    | dispel     | condescend  | evoke     | S | A |
| 7. foolish     | inane      | negligible  | cursory   | S | A |
| 8. deluge      | copy       | address     | replica   | S | A |
| 9. negligible  | meticulous | substantial | gruesome  | S | A |
| 10. proprietor | associate  | colleague   | expert    | S | A |



## Women in Space, Part One

In 1959, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) introduced the first seven United States astronauts to the public. The announcement was made with great **fanfare**; it brought instant acclaim to the seven. All had previously been test pilots, and all were male.

Less than two decades later, things had changed tremendously. In 1978, another new **contingent** of aspiring astronauts arrived for training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. On this occasion they included scientists, engineers, and medical doctors. In addition, six of the thirty-five **fledgling** astronauts were women.

At first, a **condescending** attitude toward women in the space program by some of the older men presented a rather troublesome problem. These space veterans felt that women lacked “the right stuff” to be astronauts. To **dispel** such prejudices, the women recognized the fact that they needed to perform as well as or better than their male counterparts. Candidates had to be smart, tough, and highly educated and had to be extraordinarily meticulous in everything they did. Physical strength, the one area where the men could often outperform the women, was not an important factor. During their year of basic training, the six women met the challenge. They proved their **mettle** in all essential situations.

Training to be an astronaut was a **daunting** task. The astronauts studied a range of subjects: astronomy, meteorology, geology, mathematics, navigation, and human anatomy. They spent hundreds of hours in the classroom learning the inner workings of every component of the space shuttle. Then they received hands-on experience in a **replica** of the space shuttle. The model was complete in even the smallest detail; therefore, the actual space shuttle was comfortingly familiar to the astronauts, even when they went aboard for the first time.

Trainee astronauts spent time underwater to simulate the effects of weightlessness they would experience in space. They also endured flights aboard K-135 planes, which flew almost vertically upward before turning back along a **protracted** flight path that curved toward the earth. This produced a sensation of weightlessness. These flights also gave other sensations, which led to the nauseated trainees **dubbing** the aircraft “the vomit comet.”

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replica



A critically important component of the program was survival training, both on land and at sea. What if the space shuttle's rocket engines and their backup systems failed while it was in orbit? The chance of this happening was **negligible**; still, the astronauts had to be prepared for every remote possibility. They practiced climbing inside fabric rescue balls that were thirty inches in diameter and could be rapidly inflated with oxygen. In an emergency, an astronaut would sit inside a ball waiting to be transferred to a rescue vehicle. Climbing into one of these was very unpleasant, especially for an individual suffering even a mild form of **claustrophobia**. Fortunately, it was decided that the ball was not a good solution and never flew on any shuttles.

Finally, in the spring of 1982, one of the six women graduates of the space program was chosen for Space Transportation System 7. She was Sally Ride, a scientist with an advanced degree in physics from Stanford University. Her areas of expertise were X-ray astronomy and lasers. As soon as the announcement was made, NASA was **deluged** with requests for interviews with the first American woman to venture into space. Dr. Ride cheerfully submitted to endless questions from reporters. She answered even the most **inane** questions with patience and good humor.

After the flood of publicity came a further year of intensive training geared to the specific requirements of the mission for which she had been chosen. Then, on June 18, 1983, along with four male **colleagues**, Dr. Sally Ride began her historic five-day flight aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*.

► Answer each of the following questions with 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 did the women trainees **dispel** any doubts about their abilities?

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2. Why would the space shuttle seem familiar to those boarding it for the first time?

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

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4. Which part of the training would you find **daunting**?

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5. How important is physical strength for astronauts?

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6. Were women able to succeed in all areas of the training? Explain your answer.

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7. Why would someone who was afraid of enclosed spaces be unhappy as an astronaut during the time Dr. Ride trained?

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

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9. How many women trained along with Dr. Ride?

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10. Was the K-135 plane's **protracted** flight a short or long trip?

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11. Why do you think reporters ask celebrities **inane** questions?

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12. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the older male astronauts welcomed the female trainees?

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13. What pet name did the trainees have for the K-135 plane?

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14. What is the meaning of **deluge** as it is used in the passage?

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15. Would it be accurate to describe Dr. Ride as a **fledgling** astronaut when she was chosen for her flight? Explain your answer.

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## Fun & Fascinating FACTS

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- Old Norse was a northern European language spoken in Scandinavia until the fourteenth century. The Old Norse word *dubben* means "to strike" and was given a particular meaning when it was brought into English. A monarch, in the act of naming a person a knight, would

strike that person lightly on the shoulder with a sword while saying, "I **dub** thee Sir \_\_\_\_\_," along with the person's name. The word came to mean "to give a title to" and was later broadened to its present, more general, meaning.

