

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

acrid
ak' rid

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

casualty
kazh' oo əl tē

n. A person killed or injured in a war or accident.
There were many **casualties** of the 2011 tsunami, or tidal wave, that struck Japan.

congested
kən jəst' 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.



.....
Talk to your partner about how you cope in a stressful situation.

headlong
hed' lɒŋ

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.



.....
Discuss with your partner what things impede you in the school hallways.

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.*Tell your partner something about your life that is inevitable today.***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.*Chat with your partner about a new school rule you would like to initiate.***irate**

ī 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** when you failed to lock the car doors.**negligence** *n.* The quality, state, or act of being negligent.When I went to camp, my houseplants died because of my sister's **negligence**.*Talk to your partner about what you should do if a friend displays negligence in the care of a pet.***smolder**

smōl' dər

v. 1. To burn slowly without bursting into flames.Hot ashes **smolder** long after the flames of a campfire 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.*Share with your partner what feeling might smolder inside you if someone told you an exciting secret you couldn't tell anyone else.***stringent**

strin' jənt

adj. Strict; severe.The **stringent** rules state that no exceptions can be made.

throng
thron

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.



Tell your partner about a place where people throng.

8A

Using Words in Context

Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write I on the line.

- (a) Food is **congested** through the mouth into the stomach. ____

(b) Inhaling steam cleared my **congestion**. ____

(c) The hermit avoided village life, finding it too **congested**. ____

(d) It has been **congested** that Vikings came to America centuries before Columbus. ____
- (a) The teacher thinks the hall monitor is too **lax** about enforcing the rules. ____

(b) The line grew **lax**, and I knew the fish was off the hook. ____

(c) To keep from falling off, keep a firm and **lax** hold on the bar. ____

(d) Training had been **lax**, and that led to the accident. ____
- (a) Elijah's complaints are as **inevitable** as frost in January. ____

(b) They believe that a rise in oil prices is **inevitable**. ____

(c) Was the fire **inevitable**, or could it have been prevented? ____

(d) The depth of the water was too **inevitable** to be measured. ____
- (a) The sun grew more **irate** as the clouds parted. ____

(b) An **irate** customer demanded her money back. ____

(c) **Irate** letters to the newspapers demanded an answer. ____

(d) **Irate** parents insisted that the school be reopened. ____
- (a) A **throng** of families gathered in the park for the farmer's market. ____

(b) Wearing a multicolored **throng** is tradition on the island. ____

(c) Visitors **thronged** the museum as soon as its doors opened. ____

(d) A **throng** of runs in the ninth inning made the score 11 to 2. ____

6. (a) A fallen tree **impeded** access to the house. ____
 (b) The loss of a limb was no **impediment** to the determined athlete. ____
 (c) A speech **impediment** sometimes made it hard to understand Yasmeen. ____
 (d) The cattle suddenly **impeded** when thunder startled them. ____
7. (a) **Stringent** rules have now been put in place. ____
 (b) Track runners need to keep a **stringent** watch on the clock. ____
 (c) **Stringent** new speed limits reduced the number of car accidents. ____
 (d) The food in the cafeteria is too **stringent**, so we usually pack a lunch. ____
8. (a) The comic gave a good **initiation** of a man getting on a horse. ____
 (b) Justin was **initiated** into the club with a silly ceremony. ____
 (c) The **initiation** took place the first week of school. ____
 (d) The birthday card was **initiated** by all my classmates. ____
9. (a) The house fire **smoldered** for days. ____
 (b) I would **smolder** the larger of the two apples. ____
 (c) A desire for revenge **smoldered** in Mikael. ____
 (d) Rubbing two sticks together caused the dry grass to **smolder**, and we started a fire. ____
10. (a) They found our hiding place, and we ran **headlong** in the other direction, screaming with laughter. ____
 (b) Jeremiah always takes his time to make **headlong** decisions. ____
 (c) I slowly placed the cup **headlong** on the table. ____
 (d) There was a **headlong** rush to buy lottery tickets when the prize reached a hundred million dollars. ____

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Making Connections

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

1. Which word or words go with *burn*?
(a) sear (b) scorch (c) smolder (d) stringent
2. Which word or words go with *crowded*?
(a) negligent (b) congested (c) teeming (d) obnoxious
3. Which word or words go with *angry*?
(a) exasperated (b) stringent (c) lax (d) irate
4. Which word or words go with *start*?
(a) impede (b) commence (c) launch (d) initiate
5. Which word or words go with *interfere with*?
(a) smolder (b) thwart (c) impede (d) initiate
6. Which word or words go with *careless*?
(a) inevitable (b) boisterous (c) negligent (d) lax
7. Which word or words go with *manage*?
(a) throng (b) cope (c) impede (d) aspire
8. Which word or words go with *accident*?
(a) incident (b) casualty (c) throng (d) tower
9. Which word or words go with *bitter*?
(a) competent (b) headlong (c) acrid (d) lax
10. Which word or words go with *movement*?
(a) hurtle (b) hover (c) motion (d) negligence

8C

Determining Meanings

Circle the letter next to each answer choice that correctly completes the sentence. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. We are **coping**

- (a) by getting extra help on weekends.
- (b) with the holiday crowds by going shopping in the morning.
- (c) an area thoroughly before deciding to move in.
- (d) people into doing things they know could get them into trouble.

2. **Inevitably**

- (a) I ate more than I should have, just like every year at the holiday supper.
- (b) write your name on the paper.
- (c) sit and think about what you did.
- (d) a healthy heart beats day in and day out.

3. The **acrid**

- (a) smell of burning tires filled the area around the town dump.
- (b) regions of the United States are mostly in the southwest.
- (c) sound of a police siren filled the air.
- (d) taste made the drink hard to swallow.

4. The **casualties**

- (a) spoken by the teacher were written on the board.
- (b) were flown by helicopter to the Westfield hospital.
- (c) from the earthquake are expected to number in the hundreds.
- (d) of love and respect are the best of all.

5. We **hurtled**

- (a) softly underwater in slow-motion.
- (b) through space aboard the rocket.
- (c) with laughter when we heard the joke.
- (d) past home plate to score the winning runs.

6. **Negligence**

- (a) was the cause of the accident.
- (b) can be found on dusty windowsills.
- (c) of a pet is loathsome.
- (d) sounds a lot like humming.

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7. A **throng** of

- (a) bubbles rose to the surface of the pond.
- (b) colors from red to violet are in the rainbow.
- (c) students gathered outside the pool.
- (d) people lined up at the ticket booth.

8. An **irate**

- (a) parent at the meeting demanded to talk to the principal.
- (b) person is calm and content.
- (c) bear tried to protect her cubs.
- (d) nail scratched my foot.

8D

Completing Sentences

Complete the sentences to demonstrate your knowledge of the words in bold.

1. One thing I know to be **inevitable** is

2. When rules become **lax**,

3. A **negligent** driver is likely

4. I **cope** with life's problems by

5. A rule that I think is too **stringent** is

6. If something is an **impediment**, that means it is

7. **Casualties** are produced by

8. When I'm **congested**, I feel

9. I become **irate** when

10. Something that tastes **acidic** is



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. 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. 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 always 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; 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

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to happen again. 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 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. Why did the fleeing women have trouble breathing?

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

3. How many victims were there in 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 fire inspections before the fire?

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