

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

allege

ə lej'

v. To state as a fact but without offering proof.

I always pack my own lunch, so I don't know why Sari would **allege** that I took hers.

alleged *adj.* Claimed to be true.

The **alleged** theft of my bicycle turned out to be my sister borrowing it without telling me.

allegation *n.* (al ə gā' shən) Something that is alleged.

Our neighbor claimed that my brother was the boy who broke his window, but he could not provide proof to back up his **allegation**.



.....
Allege to your partner something silly that you have no proof of, for example, that your teacher is a spy.

conclusive

kən klōō' sīv

adj. Putting an end to doubt; convincing.

The sales receipt was **conclusive** proof that the shirt had been paid for.



.....
Show your partner conclusive proof of your name.

counterpart

koun' tər pärt

n. A person or thing that is similar to another.

The British prime minister is the **counterpart** of the American president.

dismal

diz' mäl

adj. 1. Dark or extremely gloomy.

The **dismal** weather kept us inside for most of our summer vacation.

2. Causing misery or sadness; depressing.

The **dismal** conditions in Haiti forced many to flee their homeland.



.....
Discuss with your partner something that would make the weekend dismal instead of fun.

enthrall

en thról'

v. To hold the attention of as though under a spell.

The acrobats on the trapeze **enthralled** the circus audience.

enthralling *adj.* Having the power to enthrall.

The children listened for over an hour to the storyteller's **enthralling** tales.

exotic

eg zät' ik

adj. Fascinating because of being very different from the ordinary.

Rare orchids and other **exotic** flowers decorated the tables at the wedding.

incredulous
in krej' ə ləs

adj. 1. Doubtful; skeptical.

The teacher was **incredulous** when the student claimed to have read the novel in two hours.

2. Showing disbelief.

My friend gave me an **incredulous** look when I said I had seen a flying saucer.

incredulity *n.* (in krə dyōō' lə tē) Doubt or disbelief.

My father gave me a look of **incredulity** when I said I had asked for extra homework.



Tell your partner something an incredulous person might say.

legendary
lej' ən der ē

adj. 1. Well known; famous and much talked about over a long period of time.

Harriet Tubman, who led more than three hundred enslaved people to freedom, is a **legendary** figure in American history.

2. Relating to a story (usually untrue) handed down from the past.

Paul Bunyan, the **legendary** lumberjack of fantastic size and strength, is the hero of many "tall tales."

lurk
lɜrk



v. To prowl or lie hidden, as though about to attack.

The farmer frightened away the fox that **lurked** by the henhouse.

Chat with your partner where a house cat might lurk and why.

menagerie
mə naj' ə r ē

n. A collection of animals kept in cages for showing to the public.

The owner of the **menagerie** assured us that the animals were well cared for.

naive
nä ēv'

adj. 1. Inexperienced; ready to accept without analyzing.

I was **naive** to believe that sending off the coupon would win me a free vacation in Hawaii.

2. Simple in a childlike way; innocent.

Even though he is nine years old, he maintains a **naive** belief in the tooth fairy.



Share with your partner one way you were naive in your expectations about seventh grade.

pander
pan' dər

v. To give or promise what is wanted in order to please someone.

I believe that she **panders** to students by giving them better grades than they deserve.

plausible
plō' zə bəl

adj. Seeming to be true but not necessarily so.

Lin Shao's explanation of why she was late seems **plausible**, so I'll accept it.



Rehearse with your partner some plausible excuses for not finishing your homework.

preposterous
prē pās' tər əs

adj. Too absurd to be believed; ridiculous.

You cannot believe this **preposterous** newspaper story that a six-month-old baby speaks three languages.

scrupulous
skrōō' pyə ləs

adj. 1. Marked by close attention to the smallest detail.

Daniela kept a **scrupulous** record of all her homework assignments.

2. Acting in a correct and honest manner.

The children were **scrupulous** in the way they divided the money from the lemonade stand.

14A

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) Grab the milk off the **counterpart**. ____

(b) The star player has no **counterpart** in any other soccer league. ____

(c) I use a comb to create the **counterpart** in my hair. ____

(d) One twin's **counterpart** is the other twin. ____
- (a) The **legendary** pirate Blackbeard is the subject of several stories. ____

(b) Grandpa's memory got increasingly **legendary** as he got older. ____

(c) The eight-year-old violinist's talent was **legendary**. ____

(d) Lisa was **legendary** in the frigid temperatures. ____
- (a) My teacher had an **enthralling** tale to tell of his visit to China. ____

(b) Backstage, we were **enthralled** by the star's presence. ____

(c) The animals were **enthralled** within a wooden fence. ____

(d) The **enthralled** people demanded their freedom. ____
- (a) His **preposterous** outfit included sandals and a tuxedo. ____

(b) The grass is **preposterous** and green. ____

(c) His claim that he can see the future is **preposterous**. ____

(d) How can you tell which mushrooms are **preposterous** and which are safe to eat? ____
- (a) The challenger has **alleged** ahead of her opponent in the game. ____

(b) The **allegation** was made that Kiki cheated on her quiz. ____

(c) The article **alleges** that the library is running out of money. ____

(d) The **allegation** of a dog can be done in a tub or shower. ____

6. (a) I was **incredulous** when the famous novelist said she wanted to meet me. ____
 (b) Zariah's story was so **incredulous** that nobody took it seriously. ____
 (c) The story that he had found a long-lost treasure was greeted with **incredulity**. ____
 (d) My **incredulity** increased as more absurd details came out. ____
7. (a) The cast members were naturally upset by the **dismal** reviews. ____
 (b) The **dismal** weather ruined our vacation. ____
 (c) Plants become **dismal** if they get too much sun. ____
 (d) The **dismal** sound of the foghorn carried for miles across the ocean. ____
8. (a) The teenager is not a **plausible** candidate for president. ____
 (b) Jerome's story is certainly **plausible**, but is it true? ____
 (c) Make sure your excuse is **plausible** if you want it to be believed. ____
 (d) Astronomers believe that a **plausible** planet is out there waiting to be discovered. ____
9. (a) A **scrupulous** inspection of the train is carried out twice a year. ____
 (b) DeShawn paid **scrupulous** attention to every detail of the feast he prepared for us. ____
 (c) Rafi is **scrupulous** about saving his money. ____
 (d) The **scrupulous** light from the moon covered the street. ____
10. (a) I was **naive** to think that I would get to go on the trip. ____
 (b) The soldiers made several **naive** attacks and won. ____
 (c) The young child's **naive** answers were cute. ____
 (d) The bride wore a dress of **naive** silk trimmed with pearls. ____

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14B

Making Connections

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

- Which word or words go with *fascinating*?
(a) awesome (b) exotic (c) enthralling (d) incredulous
- Which word or words go with *give in to*?
(a) enlighten (b) lurk (c) allege (d) pander
- Which word or words go with *no doubt*?
(a) conclusive (b) exotic (c) naive (d) plausible
- Which word or words go with *animals*?
(a) menagerie (b) pander (c) domesticated (d) impunity
- Which word or words go with *danger*?
(a) counterpart (b) lurk (c) peril (d) jeopardy
- Which word or words go with *silly*?
(a) absurd (b) ridiculous (c) preposterous (d) scrupulous
- Which word or words go with *strict*?
(a) plausible (b) exotic (c) scrupulous (d) stringent
- Which word or words go with *believable*?
(a) incredulous (b) plausible (c) preposterous (d) scrupulous
- Which word or words go with *claim*?
(a) enthrall (b) allege (c) pander (d) soothe
- Which word or words go with *sad*?
(a) melancholy (b) dismal (c) bleak (d) scrupulous

14C

Determining Meanings

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

1. An **exotic**

- (a) fruit like the kiwi is very popular.
- (b) flower grew in the jungle.
- (c) book always has an enormous number of pages.
- (d) destination might be the Caribbean islands.

2. **Incredulity**

- (a) was on their faces when I told them I won the contest.
- (b) showed up in the walls after the heavy rain.
- (c) was removed from the fruit.
- (d) became belief once I realized she was telling the truth.

3. **Conclusive**

- (a) pencils rolled off the desk.
- (b) research shows no link between hair color and intelligence.
- (c) reports said the fire was under control.
- (d) dimes and quarters are in my pocket.

4. **Enthralling**

- (a) people without giving them a chance isn't fair.
- (b) children was the professional clown's favorite thing to do.
- (c) performances by the actors made the school play a success.
- (d) memories remind me just how awesome the trip was.

5. **Lurking**

- (a) at the back of his mind was his fear of failing.
- (b) for catfish is a local tradition.
- (c) in a hammock is my idea of relaxing.
- (d) in the gloom, the coyote got ready to spring at its prey.

6. The **menagerie**

- (a) had animal exhibits that were open to the public every day of the year.
- (b) of choices made it hard for me to decide.
- (c) is privately owned and features a pair of chimpanzees.
- (d) was published in Italy and is five hundred years old.

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7. I was **naive**

- (a) in French, but I tried to learn anyway.
- (b) for one day a week until I was fourteen.
- (c) to believe that wishing for something always makes it happen.
- (d) when I was young, but I'm a lot smarter now.

8. **Pandering**

- (a) to people's prejudices is wrong.
- (b) to people by promising money never works.
- (c) alligators by feeding them is dangerous.
- (d) off the subject made me forget what I was going to say.

14D

Completing Sentences

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

1. One **legendary** figure from the past is

2. You are being **naive** if you believe that

3. It's **plausible** to think that

4. It would be **enthralling** to

5. To support an **allegation**, you need

6. I was recently in a **dismal** mood because

7. Something I find **preposterous** is

8. Doctors need to be **scrupulous** about

9. In a **menagerie**, you might find

10. I would be **incredulous** if

Read the passage.



Bigfoot: Fact or Fantasy?

When European explorers returned from Asia and Africa in the Middle Ages, they reported having seen twelve-foot lizards with huge jaws that could eat a person whole. Most people who heard these stories were **incredulous** and accused the travelers of lying. The stories seemed **preposterous** to them. At that time hardly anyone in Europe had ever seen a crocodile. For centuries, travelers have been ridiculed for their reports of **exotic** creatures seen in distant lands. But the Komodo dragon of Indonesia, the giant panda of Western China, and the mountain gorilla of Ethiopia, to mention just three that were dismissed at one time as imaginary, really do exist.

More recently, there have been stories of Bigfoot, the **legendary** ape-like creature of the American Northwest. And Bigfoot's **counterpart** is said to live just below the snowline in the Himalayan Mountains of Asia. It is the yeti, also known as the Abominable Snowman. **Alleged** sightings, and even photographs, of both creatures make news periodically. Plaster casts have supposedly been made of their footprints. But the photographs are never sharp, the plaster casts could well be fakes, and the claims of those who say they have seen Bigfoot are not very **plausible**. Scientists have been **scrupulous** in their examination of the evidence. Their view is that it is not **conclusive**. Most remain unconvinced that Bigfoot and the yeti actually exist.

In spite of the scientists' findings, some people feel the need to believe that such creatures do exist. Such people are **enthralled** by the mysterious. They would like to think that somewhere deep in the forest, Bigfoot is **lurking**. They imagine that high in the Himalayas, a team of mountaineers is about to come upon the yeti. Supermarket tabloids **pander** to these people. They print headlines such as "Bigfoot Stole My Baby" or "Yeti Attacks Climbers on Mount Everest." Of course, only the most **naive** people believe such stories.

Given our **dismal** record of dealing with wild creatures, it would probably be best for Bigfoot and the yeti, if indeed they *are* real, to remain undiscovered. What would we do with them if we captured them? Such creatures do not belong in a **menagerie** to be peered at and photographed by sightseers. Such is the fate of the giant panda, the Komodo dragon, and the mountain gorilla. Bigfoot and the yeti are probably best left where they are now, creatures of our imagination, along with unicorns, fire-breathing dragons, and mermaids.

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► 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. Do tabloid newspapers do a responsible job of reporting the news?

2. What is the meaning of **naive** as it is used in the passage?

3. What do Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman have in common?

4. How does the yeti compare with Bigfoot?

5. What do many people imagine Bigfoot to be doing?

6. Where does the passage say a creature like Bigfoot would *not* belong?

7. What is the meaning of **incredulous** as it is used in the passage?

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

9. Why does the passage describe sightings of Bigfoot as "**alleged**"?

10. Why do most people not accept claims of Bigfoot sightings?

11. What kind of evidence would lead scientists to believe that Bigfoot exists?

12. What would be a likely reaction of people, should there be a more convincing account of a Bigfoot sighting?

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

14. Why would a rabbit not be considered an **exotic** creature?

15. Why would a report that a unicorn had been spotted be **preposterous**?

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