

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

abduct
ab dukt'

v. To carry away by force; to kidnap.
Bandits stopped the car and **abducted** the driver.

abduction *n.* The act or instance of abducting.
According to Greek myth, the **abduction** of Helen was the cause of the Trojan War.



Tell your partner if you think it is possible for people to be abducted by space aliens.

abode
ə bōd'

n. The place where one lives; home.
My summer **abode** was a small cabin that I shared with two other camp counselors.

abyss
ə bis'

n. 1. A deep opening in the earth.
We were afraid to look down as we crossed the **abyss** on a swaying rope bridge.
2. Anything too deep to measure.
The Hubble Space Telescope was built to probe the **abyss** of space.

arbitrate
är' bi trāt

v. To settle a disagreement between two parties by having a third party make a decision after hearing both sides.
The student council will **arbitrate** the dispute between the French club and the Spanish club.

arbitration *n.* (ar bi trā' shən) The act of arbitrating.
We hope the **arbitration** will end the argument between the two friends.

attribute
ə trib' yōōt

v. To think of as coming from or belonging to a particular person or thing.
The song was wrongly **attributed** to the Beatles.

n. (a' tri byōōt) A quality or feature associated with a person or thing.
Wisdom is often considered an **attribute** of old age.



Talk with your partner about how work should be attributed on a group project.

capricious
kə prish' əs

adj. Likely to change quickly for no obvious reason.
I am always changing from a winter coat to a spring jacket because of our **capricious** weather.

sphere

noun The shape of a ball or globe.

noun A particular area of knowledge, work, or activity.

**Academic Context**

In math class, you will learn about the properties of a **sphere**.

Word Parts

Sphere is also a Greek word root meaning "ball" or "sphere." It can be found in words such as *biosphere*. What other words do you know with this root?

Discussion & Writing Prompt

A soccer ball is a **sphere**. What are some other examples of **spheres**? Name a kind of **sphere** that you see or use every day.

2 min.

1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

3 min.

2. Write 2–4 sentences.

Be ready to share what you have written.

compromise
käm' prə mīz

v. 1. To settle a disagreement by having each side give up something.
We **compromised** by getting a pizza with peppers on one half for my sister and mushrooms on the other half for me.

2. To expose to the possibility of criticism or shame.
The manager will not **compromise** the restaurant's reputation by serving bad food.

n. A settlement reached by each side giving up something.
The **compromise** required my cousin to work late on Fridays so that she could have Saturdays off.



.....
Discuss with your partner a time when you reached a compromise with a family member or a friend.

devout
də vout'

adj. 1. Very religious.
Devout Muslims try to make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca.

2. Sincere.
I am a **devout** believer in the goodness of people.

distraught
di strôt'

adj. Deeply disturbed; very troubled.
The children were **distraught** when their pet rabbit died.

enlighten
en lit' n

v. To inform or instruct; to give knowledge or truth to.
I asked my dad to **enlighten** me as to why he wouldn't let me stay out late.

enlightened adj. Free from ignorance or prejudice.
This day-care center takes an **enlightened** approach to early childhood education.



.....
Ask your partner to enlighten you on the meaning of his or her name.

incline
in klīn'

v. 1. To slope or lean.
Instead of being vertical, the post **inclines** slightly to the left.

2. To be likely to; to have a fondness for.
I am **inclined** to talk too much.

3. To bend or bow (the head).
I **inclined** my head so that the barber could trim the back of my neck.

n. (in' klīn) A sloping surface.
The house lay at the top of a grassy **incline**.



.....
Share with your partner something you are inclined to do after school today.

intervene
in tər vən'

v. To enter in order to help or settle something.
The playground supervisor **intervened** when the children couldn't agree about whose turn it was.

intervention n. (in tər vən' shən) The act or instance of intervening.
The teacher's timely **intervention** kept the discussion from becoming too heated.

necessity
nə ses' ə tē

n. 1. Anything that cannot be done without or that is greatly needed.
Insect repellent is a **necessity** when camping.

2. The condition of being needed.
I don't see the **necessity** for taking separate cars.



.....
Discuss with your partner something you want to buy soon, even though it is not a necessity.

orbit
ôr' bit

n. The path taken by an object around a heavenly body such as a star, planet, or moon.

The moon's **orbit** around Earth takes just over twenty-seven days.

v. To put into or be in orbit.

In 1961, the Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to **orbit** Earth.

sacred
să' krəd

adj. 1. Holy; having to do with religion.

The Western Wall in Jerusalem is **sacred** to the Jewish people.

2. Worthy of being given the greatest honor or respect.

The engaged couple asserted that they consider marriage vows to be **sacred**.



.....
Tell your partner about a place that is sacred to you, such as a building or a beautiful wilderness area.

12A

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) Nina **inclined** the invitation to the party. ____
(b) The **incline** led down to the beach. ____
(c) Some like to be a leader, but I am more **inclined** to be a follower. ____
(d) Mateo **inclined** his head slightly in agreement. ____
- (a) The **abyss** is thirty-six thousand feet deep in the Pacific Ocean. ____
(b) A powerful earthquake can produce an **abyss** that swallows buildings. ____
(c) Melas Chasma is a nine-kilometer-deep **abyss** on the surface of Mars. ____
(d) The children dug an **abyss** on the beach and tried to fill it with water. ____

3. (a) When we couldn't reach a **compromise**, we decided not to talk about it anymore. ____
(b) I **compromised** my sister that I would take her to the circus. ____
(c) Dalip will not **compromise** his reputation by lying. ____
(d) Russia **compromises** eleven time zones. ____
4. (a) The bald eagle makes its **abode** near wetlands where fish is plentiful. ____
(b) The bear rarely ventured far from his forest **abode**. ____
(c) The reports from Maine **aboded** well for our fishing trip. ____
(d) The Greeks believed that Mount Olympus was the **abode** of the gods. ____
5. (a) Making sure my room is cool before I go to sleep is a **necessity**. ____
(b) I don't see the **necessity** of wearing a coat today. ____
(c) **Necessity** can be found if you swim deep enough. ____
(d) During the siege, the villagers' greatest **necessity** was drinking water. ____
6. (a) **Devout** members of the church meet daily. ____
(b) From now on, I plan to **devout** my weeknights to studying. ____
(c) A few **devout** followers stayed until morning. ____
(d) We **devout** one hour a day to exercise. ____
7. (a) The mountain is **sacred** to the Ute people. ____
(b) The knights swore a **sacred** oath to protect the queen. ____
(c) The food had been left out in the heat and had gone **sacred**. ____
(d) **Sacred** objects were found in the Great Pyramid. ____
8. (a) A flashlight was all we had to **enlighten** the room. ____
(b) Marcus Aurelius was one of the more **enlightened** Roman emperors. ____
(c) I agreed to **enlighten** the new student about how our school works. ____
(d) A visit from Aunt Naaz **enlightened** my day. ____
9. (a) A **distraught** voice called for help. ____
(b) Marguerite scribbled a **distraught** note that made no sense. ____
(c) A **distraught** lullaby lulled the baby to sleep. ____
(d) The women looked **distraught** as they ran into the storm. ____
10. (a) The referee had to keep **intervening** to separate the boxers. ____
(b) It is important to **intervene** before things get worse. ____
(c) Parking is banned on **intervening** days during the summer months. ____
(d) The teacher's **intervention** stopped the classroom from getting out of control. ____

12B

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 *universe*?
 (a) solar (b) orbit (c) eclipse (d) abode
2. Which word or words go with *unpredictable*?
 (a) enlightened (b) sacred (c) capricious (d) docile
3. Which word or words go with *kidnap*?
 (a) abode (b) abyss (c) abduct (d) abate
4. Which word or words go with *home*?
 (a) orbit (b) abode (c) throng (d) dwelling
5. Which word or words go with *work out an agreement*?
 (a) negotiate (b) intervene (c) arbitrate (d) compromise
6. Which word or words go with *religion*?
 (a) devout (b) sanctuary (c) sacred (d) orbit
7. Which word or words go with *upset*?
 (a) vain (b) capricious (c) docile (d) distraught
8. Which word or words go with *educate*?
 (a) enlighten (b) afflict (c) incline (d) attribute
9. Which word or words go with *up*?
 (a) incline (b) exhibit (c) abyss (d) sacred
10. Which word or words go with *get involved*?
 (a) abduct (b) intervene (c) avert (d) hurtle

abduct
abode
abyss
arbitrate
attribute
capricious
compromise
devout
distraught
enlighten
incline
intervene
necessity
orbit
sacred

Determining Meanings

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

1. The **orbit** of
 - (a) the earth by a human first took place in 1961.
 - (b) each of the sun's planets is carefully calculated by astronomers.
 - (c) a planet around a distant star has been observed and measured.
 - (d) the earth is twenty-five thousand miles at the equator.

2. We **intervened**
 - (a) to stop the spread of malaria.
 - (b) in the argument when the yelling started.
 - (c) the letter before it was sent.
 - (d) when the discussion started to get out of hand.

3. We are **compromising**
 - (a) that we will eat by six.
 - (b) so we can stop fighting.
 - (c) our values when we lie.
 - (d) by giving each person a little of what they want.

4. The **abduction** of
 - (a) Helen by Paris was the act that started the Trojan War.
 - (b) electricity was carried along the copper wires.
 - (c) dirty water needs to be cleaned immediately.
 - (d) someone is a serious crime.

5. The **capriciousness**
 - (a) on the book made me want to read it.
 - (b) of the wind ended up blowing the sailboat far off course.
 - (c) in the old recipe was a secret the chef refused to share.
 - (d) of the emperor made his people nervous.

6. To **attribute**
 - (a) his poor health to his bad eating habits is probably correct.
 - (b) that clearly fake painting to the great Picasso is ridiculous.
 - (c) those who served in the military, we have Veterans' Day.
 - (d) the team's victory to its fighting spirit seems an accurate observation.

7. The **abyss**

- (a) in the price of grapes is due to the good harvest.
- (b) known as the Kermadec Trench off New Zealand is thirty-three thousand feet deep.
- (c) of deep space appears to have no end.
- (d) opened up without warning and swallowed several buildings.

8. **Arbitration**

- (a) between warring states is one of the responsibilities of the United Nations.
- (b) of dollars into coins was taught at school today.
- (c) took place over dinner, and the argument was settled before dessert.
- (d) of disputes needs to be done in a friendly way.



Completing Sentences

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

1. I am a **devout** believer in

2. A **capricious** person

3. I could **enlighten** someone about

4. Two people need **arbitration** when

5. This weekend, I may be **inclined** to

6. One **attribute** of a good pet is

7. A **necessity** if you are walking in the snow is

8. Something I hold **sacred** is

9. Something I was once **distraught** about was

10. If someone is **abducted**, that means

- abduct
- abode
- abyss
- arbitrate
- attribute
- capricious
- compromise
- devout
- distraught
- enlighten
- incline
- intervene
- necessity
- orbit
- sacred



How the Seasons Changed

It is universally acknowledged that the seasons occur because Earth, as it travels in its yearly **orbit** around the sun, has its northern hemisphere tilted away from the sun during northern winters and toward the sun during northern summers. The ancient Greeks were considerably less **enlightened** in matters of astronomy than we are today. They put forward a different explanation. It was expressed in one of their myths about the goddess Demeter and her daughter Persephone.

The ancient Greeks believed that the gods **intervened** frequently in human affairs and often did so in a **capricious** manner. They were **inclined** to regard human mortals as mere playthings. Demeter, whose name means “earth mother,” was different. She was a benevolent goddess who had bestowed upon humans the invaluable gift of agriculture, which provided them with most of the **necessities** of life. The ancient Greeks considered the island of Sicily especially **sacred** as they believed it was there that Demeter had first given corn to humans. Women, who tilled the fields and planted the crops while the men hunted, were among her most **devout** followers.

According to the myth, Persephone was **abducted** by Hades, the god of the underworld, while she was in a meadow with her friends picking flowers. Hades suddenly erupted from an **abyss** that he created at her feet and carried Persephone off to his home: the **abode** of the dead. There he made her his wife. **Distraught** over the loss of her daughter, Demeter searched for her everywhere. When at last she determined what had happened, Demeter demanded that Persephone be returned to her. Hades refused. He argued that Persephone had consumed the seeds of a pomegranate while in the underworld. Anyone who had eaten food there was destined to remain.

Unable to agree on a solution to the problem, Demeter and Hades called upon Zeus, the ruler of the gods, to **arbitrate** the dispute. Demeter threatened to make the earth barren unless her daughter was restored to her. Zeus did not want to lose the humans who worshipped him, so he worked out a **compromise**. Persephone would live part of each year in the underworld with Hades. The remainder of the year she would spend in the human world with her mother.

And so, we see, it is to Demeter’s moods that the ancient Greeks **attributed** the changing of the seasons. During the summer months, when

the land is scorched by the hot southern sun and the crops wither in the heat, Persephone was presumed to be in the underworld with Hades. During the mild, moist months from fall to spring when the earth is fruitful, she was living with her mother.

► 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. Were the ancient Greek gods never involved with human affairs?

2. Why was it difficult to predict how the gods might behave?

3. What do we know to be the cause of the change of seasons?

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

5. Was Demeter indifferent to the loss of her daughter?

6. Did Persephone go willingly with Hades to the underworld?

7. Why was Zeus's **arbitration** of the dispute successful?

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

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

10. Why would the Greeks have built many temples on the island of Sicily?

11. Why would the ancient Greeks have worshipped Demeter?

12. Why must the region ruled by Hades have been a very gloomy place?

13. Why do we understand the change of seasons better than the ancient Greeks did?

14. Does Earth go around the sun, or does the sun go around Earth?

15. What are some of the **necessities** of life?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

- **Abyss** comes from the Greek *bussos*, which means “bottom,” combined with the prefix *a-*, which means “without.” The adjective formed from it is *abysmal*, which means “too deep or too great to be measured.” Because this adjective is often used to modify negative qualities (*abysmal* ignorance, *abysmal* poverty), it has acquired a secondary meaning, “very bad” or “wretched.” (The choir’s *abysmal* performance was the result of inadequate preparation.)
- The adjective **distraught** is formed from the Latin verb *trahere*, “to draw” or “pull,” combined with the prefix *dis-*, “apart.” To be *distraught* is to be so agitated or upset that one’s attention is likely to be drawn away from or pulled apart from whatever might otherwise engage it. The verb *distract* is formed in the same way. To be *distracted* is to have one’s attention drawn away from whatever ought to engage it. (The band playing in the street outside *distracted* me from my studies.) A person who is *distraught* experiences strong emotion; this is not necessarily the case with a person who is *distracted*.

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