<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>abet</strong></th>
<th>v. To encourage or assist in some activity, especially a questionable one. Randy abetted his friend in stealing pumpkins by helping him lug them home.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **agile** | adj. 1. Able to move quickly and easily; nimble. Alexandra’s agile steps followed Wilfredo’s as the band played a tango.  
2. Able to think quickly. In the final round of the chess tournament, Gary’s agile mind enabled him to think five moves ahead.  
**agility** n. (aj’əl tē) Quickness of mind or body. Our karate instructor carefully developed our agility through repeated practice of the basic movements. |
| **allot** | v. To assign or distribute as a portion or share. Ms. Kaplan usually allotted fifteen minutes at the beginning of each French class for conversation practice. |
| **balmy** | adj. Soothing, mild. Instead of the balmy spring weather we were expecting, the skies turned gray, and a light snow fell. |
| **congregate** | v. To come together in a group; to assemble. The principal instructed us to congregate in the parking lot while the firefighters checked the building. |
| **divert** | v. 1. To turn aside. By sandbagging the shore, we can divert some of the floodwaters.  
2. To entertain or amuse. A juggler diverted the audience during the intermission.  
**diversion** n. 1. The act of turning from a course or concern. Seeing a beautiful rainbow was a diversion from the long, boring drive.  
2. Something that amuses or entertains. Collecting shells of so many colors and sizes was a diversion our whole family enjoyed on our visit to the beach. |
| **Discuss with your partner how to respond to friends who ask you to abet them in vandalizing your school.** |
| **Chat with your partner about how a swimming coach might help swimmers develop agility in the water.** |
| **Tell your partner something that might divert you on your way home from school.** |
**humdrum**  
*adj.* Lacking excitement; boring or monotonous.  
Bagging groceries is a **humdrum** job, but the flexible hours allow me to finish all my homework.

**influx**  
*n.* A flowing or pouring in; arrival in massive numbers.  
Local restaurant owners are hiring extra help because of the expected **influx** of visitors during the holidays.

**intricate**  
*adj.* Complicated; having many related details or parts.  
Chen builds **intricate** sculptures using metal pieces she finds at junkyards.

*Work with your partner to make something simple, like tying your shoe, seem intricate.*

**memento**  
*n.* Something kept as a reminder of a past event; a souvenir.  
Madelaine kept the sand dollar as a **memento** of her day at the New Jersey shore.

**query**  
*n.* A question.  
Raise your hand if you have a **query** to ask the teacher.  
v. To ask or ask about.  
Mustafa **queried** his great-aunt about what life was like when she was young.

*Query your partner about what he or she has eaten today.*

**sporadic**  
*adj.* Happening occasionally; not regularly.  
Last summer, between **sporadic** acting jobs, we worked as lifeguards.

**staple**  
*n.* 1. A basic food that is used frequently and in large amounts.  
Rice and beans are **staples** in many households.  
2. A U-shaped fastener with sharp ends.  
Remove the **staples** before you put those papers through the copy machine.  
v. To attach with staples.  
After the students finished writing their reports, they **stapled** the pages together.  
adj. Most important, principal.  
Wheat and corn are **staple** crops of Canada.

*List for your partner the five pieces of clothing that are staple garments in your closet.*
### tumult

_n._ Noisy excitement; an uproar or disturbance.

Entering the house through the chimney, the squirrel caused a **tumult** until my sister finally caught it and released it in the backyard.

**tumultuous** _adj._ Marked by uproar or excitement, turbulent.

A **tumultuous** crowd waited at the airport to greet the triumphant Mexican soccer team.

*Tell your partner about the last tumultuous event you attended.*

### unseemly

_adj._ Not suitable; inappropriate or improper.

The two fathers had an **unseemly** argument at the monthly PTA meeting.

### Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 9. Then write the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>abet</th>
<th>agile</th>
<th>allot</th>
<th>balmy</th>
<th>congregate</th>
<th>divert</th>
<th>humdrum</th>
<th>influx</th>
<th>intricate</th>
<th>memento</th>
<th>query</th>
<th>sporadic</th>
<th>staple</th>
<th>tumult</th>
<th>unseemly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. (a) to distribute them. (b) to account fully for them. (c) To divert funds is (d) To allot funds is

2. (a) A staple is (b) a basic food. (c) A memento is (d) a short note.

3. (a) Tumult is (b) Agility is (c) quickness of mind or body. (d) a feeling of unreasonable panic.

4. (a) An influx is something (b) A memento is something (c) kept as a reminder of a past event. (d) that is inappropriate and out of place.

5. (a) A humdrum task (b) An intricate task (c) is one that is quickly completed. (d) is one that lacks interest or excitement.
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. (a) question closely. (c) entertain or amuse.</td>
<td>(b) To congregate is to (d) To divert is to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. (a) A query is (c) movement into a place.</td>
<td>(b) An influx is (d) a turning point.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. (a) An unseemly proposal is one (c) that is concisely written.</td>
<td>(b) that is very detailed. (d) An intricate proposal is one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. (a) be suspicious of that person. (c) To abet someone is to</td>
<td>(b) give support to that person. (d) To query someone is to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. (a) is one filled with excitement. (c) A balmy day</td>
<td>(b) is one that is boring. (d) A tumultuous day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Just the Right Word
Replace each phrase in bold with a single word (or form of the word) from the word list.

1. Rain was **coming down from time to time** all through the day we had chosen for painting the house.

2. Beautiful beaches and impressive rain forests have helped make tourism a **very important** industry in Hawaii.

3. Lulu's attention to her book was **turned away** when her baby brother started crying.

4. Anyone wishing to be a gymnast must be **able to move quickly and easily**.
5. The campers were **assigned as their portion** one dish of ice cream at the end-of-summer banquet.

6. Mom made us spit out our gum before the memorial service because chewing it, she said, would be most **unsuitable for such an occasion**.

7. The **warm and gentle** breeze from the ocean kept us cool all summer.

8. Kito's friends **asked a number of questions of** him about his new pet snake.

9. The surprise visit from the basketball star caused **great excitement and confusion** in the school.

10. Last year scientists warned of a possible **continuous pouring in** of killer bees from South to North America, but it never happened.

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**Applying Meanings**

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

1. Which of the following might be considered a **diversion**?
   - (a) doing homework
   - (b) getting stuck in traffic
   - (c) watching television
   - (d) playing softball

2. Which of the following could be **intricate**?
   - (a) a drawing
   - (b) a plan
   - (c) the plot of a movie
   - (d) a grimace

3. Which of the following are **staples**?
   - (a) beans
   - (b) rice
   - (c) ice cubes
   - (d) cookies

4. Which of the following needs to be **agile**?
   - (a) an Olympic skater
   - (b) a downhill skier
   - (c) an artist
   - (d) a hockey goalie

5. Which of the following is a **query**?
   - (a) "Feeling better?"
   - (b) "What's the matter?"
   - (c) "Let's go."
   - (d) "How do you open this?"
6. Which of the following can **congregate**?
   (a) people  (c) plants
   (b) animals (d) birds

7. Which of the following could be **humdrum**?
   (a) a job  (c) a calamity
   (b) a movie (d) a mutiny

8. Which of the following might be **tumultuous**?
   (a) a sleeping infant (c) a parade
   (b) an election (d) a fireplace

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**9D**

**Word Study: Similar Meanings**

Choose from the two words provided and use each word only once when completing each sentence. One space should be left blank.

**intricate / complicated**

1. The wallpaper has a(n) ________________ pattern of intertwined branches and birds.

2. The math equations were more ________________ than he expected.

3. The number 18,074,030 is an extremely ________________ one.

**sporadic / occasional**

4. The ________________ weather patterns make them hard to predict.

5. Even though Malcolm is trying to cut down on caffeine, he enjoys a(n) ________________ cup of tea.

6. Emily's visits were ________________ and then stopped altogether.

**fitful / irregular**

7. The doctor has concerns about the patient's ________________ heartbeat.

8. After a(n) ________________ sleep, Leonard had a hard time getting up.

9. The waves grew more ________________ as the hurricane neared the coast.
replica / copy

10. A __________________ of twelve inches would be a foot.

11. The bank needs a __________________ of your father’s signature for its records.

12. The *Mayflower* docked in Plymouth, Massachusetts, is a __________________ of the Pilgrims’ ship.

assimilate / absorb

13. A sponge can __________________ six times its weight in water.

14. Katy seemed unable to __________________ the meaning of the word *no*.

15. The brain has to __________________ sensory information from many different sources.

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**Vocabulary in Context**

**The Children of the *Bounty***

Many people dream of living on a remote tropical island where there are no cars and little crime. For the people of Pitcairn Island, this dream is their reality. Until 1789, Pitcairn was uninhabited. In that year, Fletcher Christian arrived at and settled on this tiny island in the South Pacific. With him were eight other mutineers from the *Bounty* and eighteen Tahitians. By the late 1800s the island’s population had grown to over two hundred. Today, the number has dwindled to fewer than fifty. However, the island’s governing council is not greatly concerned about the declining population. It receives thousands of *queries* from people all over the world who would like to live there. Nevertheless, it rarely issues the official entry document called “Licence to Land and Reside.” Pitcairners have no wish to be swamped by an *influx* of new residents.

Life on Pitcairn is easygoing. The inhabitants enjoy *balmy* weather all year round, and the island has plenty of water. Sweet potatoes, melons, bananas, and coffee are among the crops grown in its fertile soil. The older inhabitants spend most of their time fishing, growing vegetables, and making wooden carvings and woven baskets.
Because life changes little from day to day, visits from ships passing by on their way from the Panama Canal to New Zealand are eagerly awaited. The island’s steep cliffs and lack of harbors make it impossible for ships to come to land; they must anchor about a mile offshore. When a ship arrives, islanders congregate at the landing in Adamstown, the island’s only town. There they watch the launching of the forty-foot longboat that goes out to meet the ship to replenish supplies and to sell mementos. During rough weather, when the longboat is pitching wildly, those on board have a formidable task getting from the boat to the deck of the ship by rope ladder. Only the most agile attempt it.

The crews on these passing ships are eager to buy the carvings and baskets made by the islanders. Intricately carved replicas of the Bounty are popular items. They can sell for several hundred dollars or more, depending on the skill of the carver. The ships’ visits are sporadic; weeks or even months go by without one. For this reason, the Pitcairners take advantage of these visits to trade fish, fruits, and vegetables for canned goods and staples, such as flour and sugar, that they cannot provide for themselves. Everything obtained from passing ships is allotted equally among the island’s families. In this way, no one lacks the necessities.

This tropical paradise, however, is not for everyone. Young people often feel frustrated by the lack of opportunity. Many of them wish to exchange what they regard as the humdrum existence on the island for what they believe will be more exciting lives in the outside world. Not only do they find limitations in jobs unappealing, but they also complain that life on Pitcairn offers few diversions. Pitcairn Island once had very strict moral codes, which prohibited displays of affection, such as holding hands in public, and dancing, which was regarded as unseemly. While the rules aren’t as strict these days, many young people leave the island, though some return later, unable to cope with the tumult of the modern world.

Pitcairn, a volcanic speck of rock less than two square miles in area and inhabited by only nine families, has a fascination for the outside world out of all proportion to its size. It has been the subject of no fewer than 2,500 books and articles. One reason, of course, is obvious—its dramatic past, a past that began on an April morning in 1789 when Captain Bligh was rudely awakened to discover that Fletcher Christian, abetted by mutinous crew members, had seized control of the Bounty.
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 are there no heating bills on Pitcairn?

2. Why hasn’t there been an influx of tourists to Pitcairn?

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

4. Why do you suppose the ships’ visits are sporadic?

5. Name two activities that Pitcairn teenagers might find humdrum.

6. In what ways might teenagers from Pitcairn Island find life in a U. S. city tumultuous?

7. According to the passage, what is the content of a lot of the mail sent to Pitcairn?

8. How do the islanders make sure no one lacks necessary food?

9. What is the meaning of diversions as it is used in the passage?
10. Why is it inaccurate to say that few Pitcairners are interested in a ship's arrival?

11. Why was showing affection in public banned on Pitcairn?

12. Why is a carving of the *Bounty* considered a suitable *memento* of Pitcairn?

13. What determines the price of an *intricately* carved model of the *Bounty*?

14. How many of those who originally sailed to Pitcairn with Christian had helped him with the mutiny?

15. Why would it be inaccurate to say that any of the islanders could be sent out on the longboat to board the ship?
Fun & Fascinating FACTS

- We usually use the adjective **balmy** to refer to conditions of climate or weather (a *balmy* day; a *balmy* breeze). But balmy has a secondary, slang meaning of "odd or peculiar in behavior." An alternative spelling for this meaning is *barmy*, which has an interesting origin. *Barm* is the yeasty foam that rises to the top of certain alcoholic beverages as they are being brewed. A connection was made between this substance and odd or peculiar behavior. A person acting strangely was described as *barmy*. Confusion then occurred between two quite separate and distinct words. The result is that a person acting oddly can be described as *balmy* or *barmy*. A gentle breeze, however, can only be *balmy*, not *barmy*.

- The Latin verb *fluere* means "to flow" and forms the root of *influx*, "a flowing or pouring in." Other words formed from this root include *fluid*, "any substance that flows"; *fluent*, "able to write or speak in a flowing, easy way"; *fluctuate*, "to move back and forth or up and down in a wavelike or flowing manner"; *flux*, "a flowing movement," also "a state of constant change"; and *confluence*, "a flowing together, as of two streams or rivers."
query

**noun**  A question, often to make sure that something is true or correct.

**verb**  To ask a question.

**Academic Context**
You should query your teacher whenever you want to clarify information. Most of your queries can be answered by your teacher.

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**Discussion & Writing Prompt**

**Whom from history would you like to query and why?**

**1. Turn and talk to your partner or group.**

Use this space to take notes or draw your ideas.

**2. Write 2–4 sentences.**

Be ready to share what you have written.