

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

addict
ad'ikt

n. 1. A person with a very strong desire for something that is habit-forming and sometimes harmful.

Junk-food **addicts** can try to change their eating habits.

2. A person who is a very enthusiastic fan.

A true crossword-puzzle **addict** could complete this puzzle in twenty minutes.

v. (ə dikt') To cause someone to have a very strong desire for something.

My grandmother succeeded in **addicting** me to her wonderful chocolate cake after making it for me so many times.

addiction *n.* (ə dik' shən) The condition of being addicted.

We need more treatment centers for drug **addiction**.

addictive *adj.* (ə dik' tiv) Likely to cause addiction.

Cigarettes contain **addictive** substances.



.....
Tell your partner something you are an addict of, such as a computer game or a type of music.

aspire
ə spir'

v. To have a strong desire to get or do something; to seek.

Every NFL team **aspires** to win the Super Bowl.

aspiration *n.* (as pər ā' shən) A strong desire to achieve something; an ambition.

Jian Xiao sings in local clubs but has **aspirations** to be an opera singer.



.....
Share one of your aspirations with your partner.

bias
bī' əs

n. A preference that prevents one from being impartial; prejudice.

The lawyers in town insist that Judge Lewis shows **bias** in favor of women.

v. To cause someone to have prejudice; to influence.

Don't let a single bad experience with one restaurant **bias** you against all others.



.....
Talk to your partner about what a person can do when faced with bias because of race or gender.

blatant
blāt' nt

adj. Very obvious in an offensive or shameless way.

Josiah's invitation to the entire class to come to his party was a **blatant** attempt to win votes in the student-council election.

candid
kan' did

adj. Expressed honestly and without holding back unpleasant truths.

Tony asked the teacher for her **candid** opinion about his poem.

confront
kən frʌnt'

v. 1. To stand up to; to face boldly.
Do you intend to **confront** the people who have been spreading rumors about you?

2. To put or bring face-to-face.
When the police **confronted** the two suspects with the evidence, they confessed to the robbery.

confrontation n. (kən frən tā' shən) A hostile meeting between people who hold opposite views.

Rosie avoided a **confrontation** with her mother by staying in her room.



.....
Discuss with your partner the best way to peacefully confront a bully.

debut
də' byoo

n. A first public appearance.
Radio broadcasting made its **debut** in 1920.

v. To make a first public appearance.
The new television shows **debut** in September.

enroll
en rōl'

v. To sign up to become a member of some group or activity; to register.
A scholarship made it possible for me to **enroll** in art school.

enrollment n. The number of people enrolled.
The karate class has an **enrollment** of six students.

fluster
flus' tər

v. To make nervous, embarrassed, or confused.
The question **flustered** me, so I was unable to think of an answer quickly.

impunity
im pyoo' nə tē

n. Freedom from being harmed or punished.
Those who think they can litter with **impunity** are sadly mistaken.

intensify
in ten' sə fi

v. To increase; to strengthen or deepen.
Volunteers will **intensify** their efforts to find the missing cat.



.....
Explain to your partner what benefit might result if you intensify your study of vocabulary.

intimidate
in tim' ə dāt

v. To frighten, especially by threatening someone.
The pitcher's scowl was intended to **intimidate** the batter.

intimidation n. (in tim ə dā' shən) The act of intimidating.
Kareem claimed that **intimidation** had been used to make him leave the park.



.....
Chat with your partner about whether intimidation is the right way to influence people.

obnoxious
əb nāk' shəs

adj. Very unpleasant; disgusting.
An **obnoxious** diner at the next table ruined our meal by complaining in a very loud voice.

retort
rē tōrt'

v. To answer, especially in a quick or clever way.

"Spiders are afraid of *me*," I **retorted** when my friend said I was afraid of spiders.

n. A quick or clever reply.

Unable to think of a suitable **retort**, I remained silent.



.....
Pretend to argue with your partner and see who can think of the funniest retort.

stint
stint

n. 1. A period of time devoted to a job or some task.

After finishing college, Catalina had a two-year **stint** in the Peace Corps in Kenya.

2. A limit or restriction.

Local benefactors gave without **stint** to help make the youth center a reality.

v. To limit or restrict.

Many parents **stint** on things they need to pay for their children's education.

6A

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) The clown came in on **stints**, making him look twelve feet tall. ____

(b) Some people **stint** on things they need to pay for a vacation. ____

(c) After a four-year **stint** in the army, Adeline went into banking. ____

(d) Our group raised a **stint** of money for the local girls' club. ____
- (a) "I've heard enough," Zara **retorted**. "Talk about something else." ____

(b) Gabriel raised his voice to give his **retort** more force. ____

(c) Jo tried to think of a **retort** that would make her friends laugh. ____

(d) It was **retorted** in the newspapers that the president was coming to town. ____
- (a) People can be **biased** when judging others. ____

(b) The **bias** of the statue was made of marble. ____

(c) The writer shows a strong **bias** in favor of a longer summer vacation. ____

(d) There is no **bias** that the Yellowstone volcano is about to erupt. ____
- (a) At the **debut** of the race, Isimu took the lead. ____

(b) The dog food **debuted** on television in a sixty-second commercial. ____

(c) Charlie Chaplin made his movie **debut** in 1914. ____

(d) The top of the mountain was covered in a chilly **debut**. ____

5. (a) The lawyer did everything she could to **fluster** the witness. ____
 (b) Kateri got so **flustered**, he couldn't remember his own name. ____
 (c) The wind started to **fluster**, so we headed back to the house. ____
 (d) Sanjay's ball accidentally went over the fence, so we **flustered** it. ____
6. (a) The criminals felt they could break the law with **impunity**. ____
 (b) My cousin has climbed mountains with **impunity** for twenty years. ____
 (c) Some people have a natural **impunity** to certain diseases. ____
 (d) Yuan's **impunity** makes him hungry all the time. ____
7. (a) It is time to **confront** the problems with the library budget. ____
 (b) Calcium in high **confrontations** was discovered in the city water supply. ____
 (c) The teacher **confronted** the students and ordered them to behave. ____
 (d) The **confrontation** between Cal and Keiko ended peacefully. ____
8. (a) We learned **addiction** and subtraction in elementary school. ____
 (b) Playing video games can be seriously **addictive**. ____
 (c) Juana is **addicted** to novels set in the Middle Ages. ____
 (d) **Addiction** can be successfully treated. ____
9. (a) Bullies get their way by **intimidating** others. ____
 (b) The settlers were not supposed to **intimidate** with the local tribesmen. ____
 (c) **Intimidation** can be used to threaten someone. ____
 (d) If it's not an **intimidation**, it must be real. ____
10. (a) The boy **aspired** heavily as he hauled the boxes. ____
 (b) Zion **aspired** to be on the Supreme Court someday. ____
 (c) Her **aspirations** were shattered when she failed to get into drama school. ____
 (d) Kiara took a towel and wiped the **aspiration** from her brow. ____

| | |
|--|------------|
| | addict |
| | aspire |
| | bias |
| | blatant |
| | candid |
| | confront |
| | debut |
| | enroll |
| | fluster |
| | impunity |
| | intensify |
| | intimidate |
| | obnoxious |
| | retort |
| | stint |

6B

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 *increase*?
(a) aspire (b) intensify (c) inflate (d) annoy
2. Which word or words go with *unpleasant*?
(a) candid (b) detestable (c) debut (d) obnoxious
3. Which word or words go with *obvious*?
(a) illustrious (b) blatant (c) competent (d) ravenous
4. Which word or words go with *honest*?
(a) candid (b) incredible (c) biased (d) dilapidated
5. Which word or words go with *sign up*?
(a) inherit (b) fluster (c) retort (d) enroll
6. Which word or words go with *prejudice*?
(a) debut (b) bias (c) impunity (d) stint
7. Which word or words go with *frighten*?
(a) intimidate (b) enroll (c) retort (d) threaten
8. Which word or words go with *ambition*?
(a) renovate (b) aspire (c) retort (d) acquire
9. Which word or words go with *freedom from punishment*?
(a) impunity (b) devoid (c) pardon (d) stint
10. Which word or words go with *confused*?
(a) competent (b) flustered (c) enrolled (d) maintained

6c

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 **confronted**

- (a) each other across the chess board.
- (b) the problem and found a solution.
- (c) the American Revolution in 1776.
- (d) our way around the world in a few hours.

2. The **blatant**

- (a) disregard of school rules will not go unpunished.
- (b) sound of bells echoed across the valley.
- (c) lie was very obvious.
- (d) taste of the strawberries was delicious.

3. **Enrollment**

- (a) might be the best time to feed the dog.
- (b) for high school begins in ninth grade.
- (c) in poetry often rhymes.
- (d) for the little league team is open to everyone.

4. We **intensified**

- (a) the dog and decided she was okay.
- (b) our efforts to raise money for the project.
- (c) the colors to make them stand out.
- (d) to what happened this morning.

5. A **candid**

- (a) comment can hurt a person's feelings.
- (b) piece of advice may be just what is needed.
- (c) apple on a stick is a treat at the county fair.
- (d) suit made Jayden stand out from the crowd.

6. An **obnoxious**

- (a) passenger sat next to me on the bus and never stopped talking.
- (b) asteroid struck the earth sixty-five million years ago.
- (c) and ugly weed is spreading rapidly over the sidewalk.
- (d) remark was enough to get Felix shunned by the other guests.

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7. A **stint**

- (a) of complaints followed Diego wherever he went.
- (b) in the Coast Guard was the high point of her life.
- (c) of honey in the cereal makes it taste so much better.
- (d) in the bakery with her mom made Lea want to go to culinary school.

8. I was **flustered**

- (a) to the concert in a taxi.
- (b) into writing the report.
- (c) when I thought my purse had been stolen.
- (d) after the teacher threw so many questions at me.

6D

Completing Sentences

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

1. I might **confront** someone if

2. I **aspire** to

3. I get **flustered** when

4. You respond to someone with a **retort** when

5. A food I am **addicted** to is

6. I admit I am **biased** about

7. A habit I find **obnoxious** is

8. It's not nice to **intimidate** people because

9. At some point in my life I would like to do a **stint** as

10. If you say something **candidly**, that means you

Read the passage.



Out of Her League?

Pam Postema grew up in Willard, Ohio, hooked on sports and with an unusual ambition—she **aspired** to be a major-league baseball umpire. At the time, this seemed like an impossible dream. No one took her seriously. Postema persisted, however, and in 1977 **enrolled** in the country's top umpiring school. At that time, she was twenty-two and well aware of the strong **bias** against women in professional baseball. Although the school she chose to attend had previously accepted several women, none had completed the course. In its entire history, the school had graduated seven thousand men but not one woman!

The umpiring school's chief instructor treated Postema fairly, and he was also very **candid** with her. He told her that her chances of getting a top job in the future were slim. In order to make it into the major leagues, she would have to be twice as good as any man. Postema was determined to succeed, and she did well at the school, graduating seventeenth out of a class of over a hundred students. She began at once to look for a job as a professional baseball umpire.

Within a few months, Postema made her professional **debut** with the Gulf Coast Single A League. During the next few years, she advanced steadily. In 1983, she began calling plays in the Triple A Pacific League, one step below the majors. It was not easy, though. If a male umpire made a bad call, it was brushed aside. If Postema did the same thing, she was accused of becoming **flustered**. Some baseball fans seized on any errors she made as “proof” that umpiring was not an appropriate occupation for a woman.

Postema believed that a manager would often view a **confrontation** with her as a test of his manhood; if he failed to **intimidate** her, he felt somehow disgraced. She wanted to show that no one should expect to attack her authority with **impunity**, so she ejected managers and players from the game at twice the rate of other umpires. She even had three spectators thrown out of the ballpark for making **obnoxious** remarks about female umpires. Postema admits she sometimes enjoyed arguing, whether with managers, players, or even other umpires. In fact, she says that many umpires are **addicted** to arguing.

In 1988, Postema got a job umpiring the National League spring-training games, where she had to deal with major-league players and managers. When the starting pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates told a reporter that God never

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intended women to be major-league baseball umpires, Postema **retorted** that she doubted that God was interested in baseball. Not everyone was as **blatant** as the Pirates' pitcher. But the hostility directed against her, far from diminishing, seemed to **intensify** as her career advanced.

Pam Postema's career as a professional baseball umpire was marked by talent and spirit. Her **stint** in the minors had lasted seven years when she was dropped from the official list of umpires. There was nothing unusual about this. After about five years in the minors, most umpires are let go to give others a chance; very few make it into the majors. Did Pam Postema fail? Let's ask Ria Cortesio. In 2007, eighteen years after Pam retired from the game, Ria became the second woman to umpire a spring training game. She was the first to give credit to Pam Postema for leading the way.

► **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. When did Pam Postema make her first professional public appearance in a major-league game?

2. Did Postema fulfill her chief **aspiration**?

3. How did Postema show that managers could not easily **intimidate** her?

4. According to Postema, what habit is often common in umpires?

5. Why was it especially important for Postema not to get **flustered**?

6. How did three fans learn early on that they couldn't insult Postema with **impunity**?

7. What happens to most minor-league umpires?

8. Why might Postema have had reason to respect her instructor's predictions about her future in the major leagues?

9. Was Postema the first woman to attend the umpiring school?

10. How did the Pirates' pitcher show his **bias**?

11. Was the remark of the Pirates' pitcher typical of other pitchers as well?

12. How did Postema feel about sexist remarks from spectators?

13. Who had the last word in the argument between Postema and the Pirates' pitcher?

14. According to Postema, why did managers often make life difficult for her?

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15. How did Postema demonstrate that she was not a quitter?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

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- The English word **candid** comes from the Latin verb *candere*, which means “to shine.” Truth is like a light, sometimes exposing what someone might wish to hide. A *candid* person shines the light of truth on something others might wish to conceal.

.....

- The Latin verb *punire* means “to punish” and forms the root of several other English words besides *punish* and **impunity**. If a jury awards *punitive* damages to someone who has been injured, the intention is to punish those who caused the injury. If you pay a *penalty*, you are

being punished for doing what you shouldn't have done or for failing to do what you should have done. A state's *penal* system is designed to punish criminals by putting them in jail.

.....

- **Obnoxious** is formed from the Latin *noxa*, meaning “an injury”; so is *noxious*, meaning “harmful” or “unhealthy” (*noxious* gas from car exhaust). The smell from a skunk is *obnoxious* but not *noxious*. Carbon monoxide gas is *noxious* but not *obnoxious* (because it cannot be smelled).

