

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

**arduous** *adj.* Requiring much effort; very difficult.  
 är' jōō əs  
 Frequent sandstorms made the **arduous** trek across the Sahara Desert even more difficult.

**canny** *adj.* Shrewd and careful; watchful of one's own interests.  
 kan' ē  
 A **canny** student knows what to study for a test.

**climax** *n.* The highest point; the greatest moment or event.  
 kli' maks  
 Roberto Clemente's winning home run in the World Series was a terrific **climax** to the season.



.....  
*Tell your partner the climax of your favorite book or movie.*

**endorse** *v.* 1. To sign the back of a check before cashing or depositing it.  
 en dōrs'  
 The bank teller wouldn't cash my dad's check until he had **endorsed** it.  
 2. To approve of; to support.  
 Newspapers often **endorse** candidates for public office.  
 3. To be favorably associated with a product in return for payment.  
 Some well-known athletes are paid millions of dollars to **endorse** products on television.



.....  
*Ask your partner if he or she endorses the idea of year-round school.*

**exuberant** *adj.* Happy and excited; bubbling over with enthusiasm.  
 eg zōō' bər ənt  
 Our friends gave us an **exuberant** welcome when we arrived.  
**exuberance** *n.* The quality of being exuberant.  
 The steady rain could not dampen the **exuberance** of fans gathered for the rock festival.

**intrepid** *adj.* Feeling or showing no fear; brave; courageous.  
 in trep' id  
 The **intrepid** astronauts brought their crippled *Apollo 13* spacecraft safely back to Earth.

**kindle**  
kin' dəl

v. 1. To start burning.  
A spark from the woodstove **kindled** some oily rags and started the fire.  
2. To cause to become excited or stirred up.  
The museum's exhibition of Navajo pottery **kindled** my interest in Native American culture.

**kindling** n. (kind' lɪŋ) Sticks used to start a fire.  
There were plenty of dry twigs to provide **kindling** for the campfire.



.....  
*Share a song with your partner that kindled your interest in learning more about the singer.*

**lucrative**  
loo' krə tiv

adj. Producing wealth or profit.  
Our project team believes that a dog-walking service could be a **lucrative** business.



.....  
*Discuss with your partner your predictions for the most lucrative businesses of the future.*

**mentor**  
men' tər

n. A wise and loyal friend and adviser.  
As president of the college she founded, Mary McLeod Bethune was a **mentor** to many young African American women.



.....  
*Talk to your partner about how you could be a mentor for a younger student. What advice would you give the student?*

**obsession**  
əb sesh' ən

n. An interest, idea, or feeling that fills one's mind and leaves little room for anything else.  
Finishing her second novel has become an **obsession** and leaves her little time for other activities.

**personable**  
pər' sən ə bəl

adj. Pleasing in manner and appearance.  
The restaurant's **personable** staff made our meal a pleasant one.

**proficient**  
prō fish' ənt

adj. Able to do something very well; skillful.  
All the mechanics in this garage are **proficient** in car repairing.

**proficiency** n. The quality of being proficient.  
My cousin's **proficiency** in Japanese enabled her to make many friends in Tokyo.



.....  
*Tell your partner one thing you would like to have proficiency in.*

**scanty**  
skan' tē

adj. Not enough or just barely enough; small in size or amount.  
After a **scanty** meal of bread and an apple, we continued our journey.



.....  
*Chat with your partner about what happens to plants that have a scanty amount of water.*

**strait** *n.* A narrow body of water connecting two larger ones.  
The **Strait** of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.  
**straits** *n.* Trouble or need.  
When both parents lost their jobs, the family was in desperate **straits**.

**zest** *n.* Great enjoyment; excitement.  
Learning to cook meals from many cultures has added **zest** to our dinners.  
**zestful** *adj.* Full of zest.  
During the second week of my new exercise program, I awoke each day feeling **zestful** and ready for a five-mile run.

# 13A

## Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 13. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) A strait is  
(b) a fear without a known cause. (c) an idea that takes over one's mind.  
(d) An obsession is

---

---

2. (a) An exuberant person  
(b) is one who is brave. (c) A canny person  
(d) is one who seldom makes mistakes.

---

---

3. (a) one that is difficult.  
(b) An arduous task is (c) A lucrative task is  
(d) one that is done without payment.

---

---

4. (a) to make it work.  
(b) To kindle something is (c) To endorse something is  
(d) to sign the back of it.

---

---

5. (a) a narrow channel of water.  
(b) A strait is (c) a narrow ledge of rock.  
(d) A climax is

---

---

6. (a) wood used to start a fire. (c) Kindling is  
(b) Zest is (d) support for a person or a cause.
- 
- 

7. (a) A climax is (c) a person who is vulnerable.  
(b) A mentor is (d) a wise teacher.
- 
- 

8. (a) keen enjoyment. (c) Zest is  
(b) Proficiency is (d) the absence of fear.
- 
- 

9. (a) in short supply. (c) If something is lucrative, it is  
(b) seriously defective. (d) If something is scanty, it is
- 
- 

10. (a) Exuberance is (c) a state of great need.  
(b) Proficiency is (d) a state of excitement.
- 
- 

arduous

canny

climax

endorse

exuberant

intrepid

kindle

lucrative

mentor

obsession

personable

proficient

scanty

strait

zest

# 13B

## Just the Right Word

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

1. Getting a telescope **got me excited and stirred up** my interest in astronomy.
2. In this course, students must demonstrate **that they have reached a certain level of skill** in both drawing and painting.
3. Firefighters need to be **unafraid of physical danger** but cannot take foolish risks.
4. This year's citrus crop will be **much smaller than usual** because of the frost damage in Florida.
5. The **greatest event** of the novel was when the knight freed herself from the dungeon and defeated the villain.
6. My mother is a **trusted friend and wise adviser** to several young ballerinas.
7. Mina's part-time baked-goods business turned out to be quite **rewarding in a financial way**.
8. The new television announcer is extremely **pleasing both in manner and appearance**.
9. What **narrow body of water** separates Spain from North Africa?
10. Will the students' parents **give their support to** the controversial proposal?

# 13C

## 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 describe someone who is **personable**?

- (a) ruthless
- (b) amiable
- (c) astute
- (d) haughty

2. Which of the following can reach a **climax**?

- (a) a game
- (b) a novel
- (c) a painting
- (d) a movie

3. Which of the following could be **endorsed**?

- (a) a candidate
- (b) a check
- (c) athletic equipment
- (d) a proposal

4. Which of the following can be **kindled**?

- (a) firewood
- (b) enthusiasm
- (c) curiosity
- (d) negligence

5. Which of the following might be a good **mentor**?

- (a) an illustrious person
- (b) a devious person
- (c) a person devoid of good sense
- (d) a candid person

6. Which of the following would show a **zest** for learning?

- (a) reading books
- (b) asking questions
- (c) watching cartoons
- (d) dropping out of school

7. Which of the following can be **exuberant**?

- (a) a reprimand
- (b) a welcome
- (c) a person
- (d) a compromise

8. Which of the following might become someone's **obsession**?

- (a) indifference
- (b) another person
- (c) food
- (d) exercise

arduous

canny

climax

endorse

exuberant

intrepid

kindle

lucrative

mentor

obsession

personable

proficient

scanty

strait

zest

## Word Study: Synonyms

Synonyms have the same or almost the same meanings, but one often fits a sentence better. Choose the word that best completes each sentence.

### arduous / difficult

1. Japanese is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ language to learn.
2. The trek across the Gobi Desert was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ journey.

### religious / devout

3. The Koran is a \_\_\_\_\_ text that is the basis of Islam.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim prays five times a day.

### intrepid / brave

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts brought *Apollo 13* safely back to Earth.
6. Josie tries to be \_\_\_\_\_ when she goes to the dentist.

### instruct / enlighten

7. A good teacher seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ her students.
8. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the mail carrier to leave any packages for me.

### clamber / climb

9. The rosebushes \_\_\_\_\_ the trellis.
10. I saw the boys run away and \_\_\_\_\_ up the wall.

### final / ultimate

11. Malcolm's go-cart entered the \_\_\_\_\_ lap.
12. Scientists disagree about the \_\_\_\_\_ fate of the rain forests.

### abode / home

13. Mount Olympus was the Greek gods' \_\_\_\_\_.
14. George Washington's \_\_\_\_\_ was called Mount Vernon.

### hopeless / bleak

15. Only penguins can survive the \_\_\_\_\_ Antarctic winter.
16. Feeling \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate dropped out of the race.

**stringent/strict**

17. Grandma tells us that she had a very \_\_\_\_\_ upbringing.

18. The product testers performed a series of \_\_\_\_\_ tests.

**surrender/capitulate**

19. The police ordered the thief to \_\_\_\_\_.

20. The mayor did not \_\_\_\_\_ to the demand for lower taxes.

**13E**

**Vocabulary in Context**

Read the passage.



**America's First Lady of the Sky**

In 1917, Amelia Earhart was working as a nurse's helper in Canada, caring for pilots wounded in the First World War. Their stories **kindled** an interest in flying in the nineteen-year-old girl, so after the war she took lessons and became a **proficient** pilot. As soon as she had saved enough money, she bought her own plane. She soon broke the women's altitude record, taking her tiny biplane up to fourteen thousand feet. By that time, flying had become an **obsession**. Earhart's **zest** for adventure led her to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She also became the first person to make the perilous solo flight from Hawaii to California. Previous attempts had claimed the lives of ten pilots.

In 1931, she married publisher George Putnam. A **canny** businessperson, Putnam acted as his wife's manager and was her **mentor** in the ways of business. In addition to being world famous for her exploits in the air, Earhart was **personable** and enjoyed being in the spotlight. This made it easy for Putnam to promote her activities. He published the books she wrote. He got her contracts with advertisers to **endorse** products. He also set up **lucrative** speaking tours in which Earhart talked not only about flying but also about other issues important to her, such as women's rights and world peace. The money they earned in these ways was used to help meet the high costs of buying and maintaining Earhart's aircraft.

On June 1, 1937, at the age of thirty-nine, Earhart took off in a twin-engine Lockheed Electra on a round-the-world flight. Accomplishing this long-term goal was to be the **climax** of her career. The event, which began by

arduous
canny
climax
endorse
exuberant
intrepid
kindle
lucrative
mentor
obsession
personable
proficient
scanty
strait
zest



heading east from California, attracted worldwide interest. **Exuberant** crowds greeted her at every stop of the flight, eager to catch a glimpse of the **intrepid** flier. On the morning of July 2, she took off on the most **arduous** leg of the journey, a 2,500-mile flight from New Guinea to tiny Howland Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Twenty hours into the flight, having covered most of the journey, Earhart radioed that she was running out of fuel. She never made it to Howland Island. Massive air and sea rescue missions produced no clues as to her fate.

Amelia Earhart's disappearance remained a complete mystery for over fifty years. Then, in 1992, searchers found part of a shoe that may have belonged to Earhart, together with some scraps of aluminum, possibly from her plane, on Nikumaroro Island, five hundred miles south of Howland Island. The plane could have crash-landed there when it ran out of fuel. If this is indeed what happened, Earhart and her navigator would have been in desperate **straits**. They could not have survived more than a few days. Temperatures on the island reach 120 degrees. They would have had only a **scanty** supply of water on board, and there was none on the island. Their bodies, and the remains of the plane, would have been swept out to sea in a relatively short time. Is this what actually happened to Amelia Earhart? It is a likely explanation, but we will probably never know for sure. Still, the search continues. In 2015, it was revealed that a piece of aluminum sheeting, measuring nineteen inches by twenty-three inches, found on Nikumaroro Island, almost certainly came from Earhart's plane. Note the word "almost." Nothing has yet been proven.

► **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 would Earhart have been successful as a television personality?

---

---

2. What led Earhart to buy her own plane?

---

---

3. How might her flying instructor have rated Earhart?

---

---

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

---

---

5. What qualification did George Putnam have to manage Earhart's career?

---

---

6. How did the various deals that Putnam set up help Earhart?

---

---

7. What two important roles did Putnam play in Earhart's life?

---

---

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

---

---

9. Why must Earhart have felt **exuberant** when she flew solo across the Atlantic?

---

---

10. Why was the 1937 round-the-world flight so important to Earhart?

---

---

11. Why did the flight from New Guinea to Howland Island require special care?

---

---

12. What would have made thirst a particular problem for the stranded fliers?

---

---

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

---

---

arduous

canny

climax

endorse

exuberant

intrepid

kindle

lucrative

mentor

obsession

personable

proficient

scanty

strait

zest

14. What led Earhart to engage in her dangerous exploits?

---

---

15. Why would *timid* not be an appropriate word to describe Earhart's flying?

---

---

## Fun & Fascinating FACTS

.....

- The adjective formed from the word **climax** is *climactic*. (The *climactic* scene in a movie is the one toward which the earlier scenes have been leading.) Don't confuse this word with *climatic*, which is the adjective form of *climate*. (The great ice ages were the result of *climatic* changes.)

.....

- The Latin *dorsum* means "back" and occurs in several English words. The *dorsal* fin of a fish is the one growing from its back; the familiar triangular fin of a shark is perhaps the best-known example. Our vocabulary word **endorse** comes from this

same Latin root. When you *endorse* a check or other document, you sign your name on the back of it.

.....

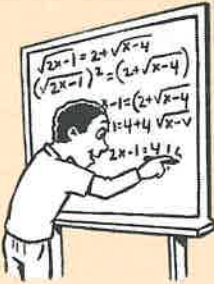
- A **mentor** is a wise friend and counselor, one who takes responsibility for another person's education and instructs her or him in the ways of business or a profession. The word comes from Homer's great epic poem *The Odyssey*. While its main character Odysseus was engaged in his adventurous travels, his friend Mentor was entrusted with the running of his household and with the education of his son Telemachus.

# 13

## Vocabulary Extension

### proficient

*adjective* Good at doing something.



### Academic Context

Before receiving a high school diploma, students must be **proficient** in basic reading, writing, and math.

### Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms: capable, skillful, talented

Antonyms: inexperienced, unable, unskilled

### Discussion & Writing Prompt

Think about someone you admire. Is this person **proficient** in a skill or type of work? Explain.

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.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---