Word List

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

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

**canny**  
kan′ ē  
adj. Shrewd and careful; watchful of one's own interests.  
A canny businessperson can make a profit even in the worst of times.

**climax**  
kli′ mak′s  
n. The highest point; the greatest moment or event.  
Slugger Norris's winning home run in the World Series was a terrific climax to the season.

**endorse**  
en dōrs′  
v. 1. To sign the back of a check before cashing or depositing it.  
The bank teller wouldn't cash my check until I 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.

**exuberant**  
eg zō′ bər ant  
adj. Happy and excited; bubbling over with enthusiasm.  
Our friends gave us an exuberant welcome at the airport.

**exuberance**  
n. The quality of being exuberant.  
The steady rain could not dampen the exuberance of fans gathered for the rock festival.

**intrepid**  
in trep′ id  
adj. Feeling or showing no fear; brave; courageous.  
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 wood stove kindled some oily rags and started the fire.  
2. To cause to become excited or stirred up.  
The museum's exhibition of Navaho pottery kindled my interest in the Southwest.

**kindling**  
n. (kind′  līn) Sticks used to start a fire.  
There were plenty of dry twigs to provide kindling for the campfire.
**lucrative**  
_lódigo kra tiv_  
_adj._ Producing wealth or profit.  
I invested some of the money I had inherited in what sounded like a _lucrative_ deal.

**mentor**  
_men· tar_  
_n._ A wise and loyal friend and adviser.  
As president of the college she founded, Mary McLeod Bethune was a _mentor_ to many young black women.

**obsession**  
_ˈəb sesh· an_  
_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_ with her and leaves her little time for other activities.

**personable**  
_pur· san· a bal_  
_adj._ Pleasing in manner and appearance.  
The hotel's _personable_ staff made our stay a pleasant one.

**proficient**  
_pró fish· ˈant_  
_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.

**scanty**  
_skan· tē_  
_adj._ Not enough or just barely enough; small in size or amount.  
After a _scanty_ meal of a bread roll and an apple, we continued our journey.

**strait**  
_strát_  
_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**  
_zest_  
_n._ Great enjoyment; excitement.  
Learning to scuba dive added _zest_ to our Caribbean vacation.  

**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.
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 13. Write each sentence in the space provided.

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.
   (b) Zest is
   (c) Kindling is
   (d) support for a person or a cause.

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

8. (a) keen enjoyment.
   (b) Proficiency is
   (c) Zest 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.

13B  Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 13.

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 Navratilova’s career was her ninth Wimbledon singles victory in 1990.

6. My mother is a trusted friend and wise adviser to several young ballerinas.

7. Terry’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** is it that separates Spain from North Africa?

10. Will the students’ parents **give their support to** the controversial proposal?

### Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have 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
13D Word Study

Synonyms have the same or almost the same meanings, but one often fits a sentence better. Choose the word that best fits 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. We train the rosebushes to ______________ 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.

Passage

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

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, and 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 14,000 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 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, 500 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.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of 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 **strait** as it is used in the passage?
14. What led Earhart to engage in her dangerous exploits?

15. Why would timid not be an appropriate word to describe Earhart?