<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Word List</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **complement** n. 1. Something that completes or makes perfect.  
Candles will be the perfect complement for an elegant dinner.  
2. The number or amount that makes up a whole.  
The shelf has a full complement of books.  
v. To bring to completion or perfection.  
These CDs of Joan Baez in concert will complement my collection of folk music. |
| **component** n. Any of the more important parts of a whole.  
The picture tube is the main component of a television set.  
adj. Contributing to form a whole.  
A tape deck and a CD player are two of the component parts of a complete stereo system. |
| **conjure** v. 1. To call forth by magic, or as if by magic.  
Shakespeare’s Hotspur claims that he can conjure spirits.  
2. (with up) To bring to mind; to recall or evoke.  
The aroma of baking bread conjures up memories of my childhood. |
| **emphasize** v. To give special attention to; to stress.  
The teacher emphasized that homework must be turned in on time.  
**emphasis** n. (em’ fa sis) Special attention directed at something to give it importance.  
The course covers the period 1845–1860 with emphasis on the causes of the Civil War.  
**emphatic** adj. (em fat’ ik) Said or done with force.  
When asked when she planned to retire, her answer was an emphatic “Never!” |
| **homage** n. Honor or respect shown publicly.  
On Veteran’s Day, we pay homage to those who gave their lives for their country. |
| **impromptu** adj. Unplanned.  
She gave a charming impromptu speech when called upon by the host.  
adv. Without preparation.  
This speech course teaches students to speak impromptu. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>lush</strong></td>
<td><strong>adj.</strong> Marked by richness of growth, especially of vegetation. Arid volcanic terrain contrasts sharply with lush mountains on the island’s opposite side.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **medley** | **n.** 1. A mixture of often unrelated things. On the yard sale’s bargain table was a medley of objects priced at under a dollar.  
2. A selection of music from various sources, played as one piece. The concert ended with a medley of patriotic tunes. |
| **oblige** | **v.** 1. To require someone to do something for legal, social, or moral reasons. Joining the book club obliges you to buy four selections over the year.  
2. To earn the gratitude of. You will oblige me by saying no more about this matter.  
3. To do a favor for. We begged Miss Streisand to oblige us with one final song. |
| **pretentious** | **adj.** Drawing undeserved or inappropriate attention to oneself; showy. Was it pretentious of John Hancock to sign his name so conspicuously to the Declaration of Independence? |
| **prowess** | **n.** Great skill or ability. The political prowess of Golda Meir made her an outstanding world leader. |
| **rustic** | **adj.** 1. Of or relating to country life or people. The pictures of grazing cows gave a certain rustic charm to the room.  
2. Lacking elegance or polish. A rustic cabin of rough-hewn logs was our home for the summer.  
**n.** A country person, especially one thought of as simple or crude. Shakespeare’s rustics provide much of the humor in his comedies. |
| **subtle** | **adj.** 1. So slight as to be not easily seen or understood. Jeff’s subtle hints that he wanted a skateboard for his birthday went unnoticed by his parents.  
2. Able to understand fine shades of meaning. Corinne’s subtle mind immediately saw a way to make the plan work.  
**subtlety** | **n.** Something so slight that only a clever or well-educated person can see it; the quality of being subtle. The professor pointed out the subtlety of the poet’s message in her later works. |
| **vocation** | **n.** A person’s employment; occupation. Carpentry started out as my hobby but soon became my vocation.  
**vocational** | **adj.** Having to do with a person’s career. I learned my trade at the county vocational school. |
warble  v. To sing in a melodious manner. Somewhere in the gathering darkness, a nightingale began to warble.

15A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 15. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) To emphasize something is to  (c) deny it ever happened.  (d) stress its importance.
   (b) To warble something is to

2. (a) A subtle element is  (c) one that contributes to making up a whole.
   (b) A component element is  (d) one that can be easily replaced.

3. (a) sing it.  (c) To complement something is to
   (b) praise it.  (d) To warble something is to

4. (a) a state of doubt or uncertainty.  (c) Homage is
   (b) Prowess is  (d) honor paid in public.

5. (a) deals with career planning.  (c) A pretentious guide
   (b) A vocational guide  (d) deals with low-cost travel.

6. (a) that draws undue attention to itself.  (c) A rustic sign is one
   (b) that is in need of repair.  (d) A pretentious sign is one
7. (a) make light of it.  
   (b) bring it to completion.  
   (c) To complement something is to  
   (d) To conjure up something is to

8. (a) A lush garden is one  
   (b) A rustic garden is one  
   (c) that is open to the public.  
   (d) with a rich growth of vegetation.

9. (a) to do that person a favor.  
   (b) make that person disappear.  
   (c) To conjure up someone is  
   (d) To oblige someone is

10. (a) An impromptu change  
     (b) A subtle change  
     (c) is one that is very slight.  
     (d) is one that is unavoidable.

complement  
component  
conjure  
emphasize  
homage  
impromptu  
lush  
medley  
oblige  
pretentious  
prowess  
rustic  
subtle  
vocation  
warble
1. Edith Wharton's novels are noted for their **fine qualities that may not be immediately obvious to the casual reader.**

2. This lace tablecloth is a perfect **finishing touch** to your fine china and silverware.

3. Pelé's **great skill** with a soccer ball made him a legendary figure.

4. Although he may look like a **simple country person**, my neighbor is a very astute businessperson.

5. Your mentioning lobsters **makes me think back and brings up memories** of that summer we spent in Maine.

6. In both our beginners' and advanced scuba diving courses, the **most important lesson that is taught** is on safety.

7. If you sign the application, you are **left with no choice and will be forced** to accept the offer.

8. The orchestra opened the concert with a **wide-ranging selection** of Broadway show tunes.

9. Politicians must be able to speak **without any preparation and without notes** on just about any subject.

10. Gardening was both her **chosen profession** and her hobby.
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 be a vocation?
   (a) teaching
   (b) nursing
   (c) napping
   (d) flying

2. Which of the following would be a full complement?
   (a) twelve eggs in a carton
   (b) twenty-four checkers pieces
   (c) seven baseball players
   (d) fifty-two playing cards

3. Which of the following can be conjured up?
   (a) a fond memory
   (b) a piece of music
   (c) a past event
   (d) a line of poetry

4. To which of the following might we pay homage?
   (a) an intrepid war hero
   (b) a great writer
   (c) an illustrious film actor
   (d) a former president

5. Which of the following is a rustic scene?
   (a) a Vermont covered bridge
   (b) a Florida citrus grove
   (c) a New Hampshire lake
   (d) a New York skyscraper

6. Which of the following might be subtle?
   (a) a suggestion
   (b) a line of poetry
   (c) a shift of mood
   (d) a circus clown

7. Which of the following might oblige a person?
   (a) making a promise
   (b) accepting an offer
   (c) borrowing money
   (d) repaying a loan

8. Which of the following might be lush?
   (a) a meadow
   (b) a tropical rain forest
   (c) a valley
   (d) a desert

complement
component
conjure
emphasize
homage
impromptu
lush
medley
oblige
pretentious
prowess
rustic
subtle
vocation
warble
Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter of the pair you choose.

1. SKILL : PROWESS ::
   (a) consternation : fear
   (b) fire : smoke
   (c) orbit : planet
   (d) journey : destination

2. WARBLE : SONG ::
   (a) applaud : discovery
   (b) receive : gift
   (c) invite : audience
   (d) recite : poem

3. ZESTFUL : ENTHUSIASM ::
   (a) menial : work
   (b) acrid : smoke
   (c) negligent : vigilance
   (d) blithe : joy

4. STRAITS : HELP ::
   (a) sphere : shape
   (b) citrus : fruit
   (c) tedium : excitement
   (d) throng : congestion

5. ENDORSE : DISAPPROVE ::
   (a) initiate : begin
   (b) bestow : take
   (c) placate : gratify
   (d) smolder : burn

6. ABBYSS : DITCH ::
   (a) sea : land
   (b) hole : open
   (c) mountain : hill
   (d) wound : doctor

7. ENLIGHTENED : IGNORANT ::
   (a) industrious : lazy
   (b) watchful : vigilant
   (c) precise : exact
   (d) irate : angry

8. VOCATIONAL : CAREER ::
   (a) aquatic : water
   (b) commit : crime
   (c) steal : bestow
   (d) borrow : money

9. MENAGERIE : ANIMALS ::
   (a) sky : clouds
   (b) theater : audience
   (c) ocean : ships
   (d) garden : plants

10. PLAUSIBLE : BELIEVABLE ::
    (a) stringent : strict
    (b) pretentious : humble
    (c) scrupulous : lax
    (d) preposterous : realistic
Bluegrass

To horse lovers, the word bluegrass conjures up a picture of Kentucky's lush blue-green pastures, home of champion racehorses; but to lovers of country music, bluegrass is the lively sound of fiddles, banjos, mandolins, and guitars playing together in rapid footstompin', hand-clappin' harmony. Its roots go back many years to the Scottish and Irish immigrants who settled in the Appalachian region. These settlers brought their traditional tunes and songs with them. In the days before television, movies, and radio, families were obliged to supply their own entertainment. Anyone who could scrape a tune from a fiddle or warble a song would be invited to join in.

After the Civil War, newly freed Black slaves found jobs in Appalachia. They worked as coal miners, loggers, and railroad construction workers. They also introduced their music to the people of Appalachia, bringing in the "banjar," an African four-stringed instrument. The banjar was made from a hollowed gourd with a neck attached. Its twanging sound complemented the traditional fiddle so well that over time it was developed into the modern banjo. By the end of the nineteenth century, the guitar had been added, brought to Appalachia by city musicians traveling in bands through the region. All the components of bluegrass music were now in place. Its distinctive sound was beginning to emerge, although it did not yet have a name.

At first, the music coming out of Appalachia was ignored by most Americans who criticized its lack of subtlety. They thought of it as music that would appeal only to rustics. This impression was often created by the musicians themselves. They enjoyed combining slapstick comedy with their musical medleys. The coming of radio in the 1920s put more emphasis on the music itself and brought it a wider audience and more general acceptance. Together with recorded music, radio offered greater commercial opportunities. Musicians were no longer content to play the fiddle or the guitar merely as a hobby. More and more began to make music their vocation. Among them was Bill Monroe, who was born in western Kentucky in 1911. Bill showed his prowess with the mandolin at an early age. In 1938, he formed a band and named it after the nickname of his native state—the
Blue Grass Boys. Over the years that followed, the name of Monroe's band lent itself to the distinctive sound he had created.

A 2003 study showed an astonishing surge of interest in bluegrass. Eight million people had bought a bluegrass recording in the previous year. Bluegrass festivals are held in just about every state in the union and in many foreign countries. These musical events are not at all pretentious; in fact, performers mix freely with their fans. Those attending enjoy taking out their own instruments to join in impromptu performances held in any open space between campers. Many also come to pay homage to Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass. Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys continued to perform until he was in his eighties, although he reduced the number of festival performances from 150 to 100 per year. On September 9, 1996, four days before his eighty-fifth birthday, Bill Monroe died.

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 is Kentucky a good place to raise horses?

2. At what stage of his life did Bill Monroe first show his musical ability?

3. Why do many fans take their instruments to bluegrass festivals?

4. Who would be especially welcome at Appalachian get-togethers in the days before radio and television?

5. Why did the banjo become popular in Appalachian music?
6. To lovers of country music, what does the name bluegrass suggest?

7. How would you describe a medley of Bill Monroe tunes?

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

9. What instruments are one component of bluegrass music?

10. Why are fans able to mix freely with musicians at bluegrass festivals?

11. What mistaken idea did some Americans have about the appeal of bluegrass music?

12. What criticism might some lovers of "fine" music make of bluegrass music?

13. Why do you think the bluegrass musicians ultimately eliminated the slapstick comedy routines?

14. How did Bill Monroe demonstrate his devotion to country music?

15. What special purpose draws bluegrass fans to Bill Monroe's performances?