<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Word List</strong></th>
<th>Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>acrid</strong></td>
<td>adj. Sharp, irritating, or bitter to the sense of taste or smell. Burning rubber gives off <strong>acrid</strong> fumes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>casualty</strong></td>
<td><em>n.</em> A person killed or injured in a war or accident. There were many <strong>casualties</strong> of the 2011 tsunami, or tidal wave, that struck Japan.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **congested**| adj. 1. Overcrowded; filled too full. We take the subway during rush hour to avoid the **congested** city streets.  
2. Filled with fluid. My sinuses get **congested** when the pollen count is high.  
**congestion** *n.* 1. The condition of being overcrowded. The **congestion** inside the furniture store is due to the “Going out of Business” sale.  
2. The condition of being filled with fluid. Most cold remedies claim to relieve **congestion** for at least eight hours. |
| **cope**     | *v.* To manage problems or difficulties successfully. Extra police were on duty to **cope** with the large crowds expected for the parade. |
| **headlong** | adj. With great speed or force; reckless. The crowd made a **headlong** rush for the best seats as soon as the doors were opened.  
adv. Recklessly; without time for careful thought. It’s foolish to rush **headlong** into a dispute that doesn’t concern you. |
| **hurtle**   | *v.* To move with great force and speed. A snowball **hurtled** past my ear. |
| **impede**   | *v.* To get in the way of; to interfere with the movement of. An overturned truck **impeded** the flow of traffic.  
**impediment** *n.* (im’ ped’ i mant) An obstacle; something that gets in the way. Poor roads are an **impediment** to travel. |
| **inevitable** | *adj.* Bound to happen; unavoidable. A certain amount of wear on even the best tires is **inevitable** with normal use. |
**initiate**  
*i nish` e åt*  
v. 1. To put into effect; to bring into use.  
The school *initiated* the new dress code on September 6.  
2. To take in as a member.  
The National Honor Society *initiated* thirty new members last evening.  

**initiation**  
*n. (i nish å' shan)*  
1. The act of beginning.  
The *initiation* of the new traffic plan has been delayed until the road is repaired.  
2. The ceremony or process that makes one a member.  
A celebration followed the *initiation* of new members into the San Francisco Film Society.

**irate**  
*i råt`*  

adj. Very angry; furious.  
*Irate* citizens demanded that the chemical company stop polluting the lake.

**lax**  
*laks*  

adj. 1. Not strictly enforced; undemanding; careless.  
Frequent inspections are designed to ensure that airline safety procedures have not become *lax*.  
2. Not tight; loose.  
When I felt the rope go *lax*, I knew that my partner had dropped the other end.

**negligent**  
*neg` la jant*  

adj. Failing to take proper care of or to give proper attention to.  
You were *negligent* in failing to lock the car doors.  

**negligence**  
*n. The quality, state, or act of being negligent.  
When I went on vacation, my houseplants died because of my roommate's *negligence*.**

**smolder**  
*smöl` dar*  

v. 1. To burn slowly without bursting into flames.  
Hot ashes *smolder* long after the flames have died down.  
2. To exist in a hidden state before bursting into the open.  
A desire for freedom *smoldered* in the hearts of the people who left Cuba for Miami.

**stringent**  
*strin` jant*  

adj. Strict; severe.  
The *stringent* rules state that no exceptions can be made.

**throng**  
*thrön*  

*n. A large number of people gathered together; a crowd.  
A *throng* of supporters cheered the president's arrival in Seattle.  

v. To gather or move in large numbers.  
Fans *thronged* into the ballpark for the first game of the World Series.
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 8. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) Initiation is  
   (b) Negligence is  
   (c) a ceremony welcoming new members.  
   (d) unnecessary waste.

2. (a) fail to pay proper attention.  
   (b) feel desire without showing it.  
   (c) To smolder is to  
   (d) To hurl is to

3. (a) Negligence is  
   (b) a state of nervousness or fear.  
   (c) Congestion is  
   (d) the lack of proper attention.

4. (a) gives off an irritating smell.  
   (b) burns rapidly.  
   (c) Something that is stringent  
   (d) Something that is acrid

5. (a) be prostrate with grief.  
   (b) To be congested is to  
   (c) be filled with fluid.  
   (d) To be lax is to

6. (a) A headlong rush is one that  
   (b) An inevitable rush is one that  
   (c) could have been prevented.  
   (d) is bound to happen.

7. (a) To impede a new set of rules  
   (b) To cope with a new set of rules  
   (c) is to deal successfully with them.  
   (d) is to introduce them.

8. (a) A casualty is  
   (b) an accident causing death or injury.  
   (c) something that holds one back.  
   (d) An impediment is
9. (a) A headlong exit is one (c) An irate reply is one  
   (b) that is made in a great hurry.  (d) that should not have been made.

10. (a) a person who is killed or injured. (c) A casualty is  
    (b) a member of a group.  (d) A throng is

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8B 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 8.

1. Changing schools in midyear is difficult, but I’m sure you will be able to deal successfully with your new situation.

2. Travelers had to cope with great numbers of slowly moving vehicles on the highway over the Labor Day weekend.

3. The bank’s rules are so strictly enforced that managers have very little latitude when making loans.

4. The garage was found to have failed to take proper care in repairing the car’s brakes, so it was held responsible for the accident.

5. The voters were extremely angry when the governor broke a promise not to raise taxes.

6. A huge rock moved with great speed and force down the mountainside.

7. School discipline was not strictly enforced; as a result, students’ grades suffered.

8. Crowds were present in large numbers at the airport to greet the Olympic team.

9. A sailboat ran aground and got in the way of the other vessels.
10. Make sure the campfire is out, or it will continue to burn even though it may not actually burst into flame.

8c 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 can suffer from congestion?
   (a) city streets
   (b) a theater lobby
   (c) a car
   (d) the passages in one's nose

2. Which of the following can be initiated?
   (a) a new member
   (b) a new project
   (c) a new rule
   (d) a new year

3. Which of the following can throng?
   (a) a pair of horses
   (b) a pile of stones
   (c) a flock of seagulls
   (d) a crowd of people

4. Which of the following often result in casualties?
   (a) a plane crash
   (b) a wrestling match
   (c) a war
   (d) an earthquake

5. Which of the following can smolder?
   (a) a fire
   (b) anger
   (c) resentment
   (d) a flood

6. Which of the following can be lax?
   (a) a metal bar
   (b) a fishing line
   (c) supervision
   (d) rules

7. Which of the following could hurtle through the air?
   (a) a jet fighter
   (b) a baseball
   (c) a falling rock
   (d) a snowflake

8. Which of the following is inevitable?
   (a) growing older
   (b) getting sick
   (c) increased world population
   (d) change in our daily lives

acrid
casualty
congested
cope
headlong
hurtle
impede
inevitable
initiate
irate
lax
negligent
smolder
stringent
throng
Read these Latin words and their meanings. Then fill in the blank spaces in the sentences. The vocabulary words are from this lesson or earlier lessons.

-aspirare (to climb)
-ira (anger)
-novus (new)
-stringere (to tie or bind)

-delectare (to delight)
-laxus (loose)
-noxa (injury)
-initium (beginning)
-littera (letter)
-poena (punishment)

1. __________ rules are loosely enforced. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

2. A __________ item is one that pleases the sense of taste. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

3. A __________ substance is one that can damage your health. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

4. To act with __________ is to act without fear of being punished. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

5. An __________ customer is one who is very angry. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

6. To __________ a new system is to start using it. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

7. To __________ a building is to make it like new again. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

8. An __________ person is one who is unfamiliar with how the letters of the alphabet are used. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

9. A __________ budget is one that is tightly controlled. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.

10. To __________ to a career in acting is to have a strong desire for it. The word comes from the Latin __________, meaning __________.
The Triangle Fire

A hundred years ago, American industry was growing fast and needed workers badly. It found them in the millions of immigrants who poured into the United States from Europe. Most passed through Ellis Island in New York Harbor with little money and few possessions. Many went no farther than New York City in their search for jobs. Young women found employment in the overcrowded, unsanitary, and unsafe factories of the city's garment district. In these sweatshops they worked long hours for low wages. Fire inspections were lax, and fire equipment was inadequate. It was inevitable that tragedy would strike sooner or later.

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, the top three floors of a ten-story building on New York's Lower East Side were crowded with women working for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company. Late in the afternoon, a bin containing waste fabric on the eighth floor began to smolder. No one noticed until it suddenly burst into flames. Women in the crowded workroom tried frantically to put out the rapidly spreading fire. Their efforts were in vain. Acrid smoke filled the room. Many of the women, coughing, choking, and unable to see where they were going, were trampled in the headlong rush for the only unlocked door in the workroom. The owners of the company always kept the other doors locked; that was to prevent women from slipping outside into the hallway for a break when they were supposed to be working.

Those who fled into the heavily congested hallway found that just one elevator was working; only twelve women were able to use it. The fire escape collapsed under the weight of people crowding onto it. The narrow stairway, less than three feet wide, impeded the movement of the women, leaving many trapped. More than forty women jumped from windows and hurtled to their deaths eighty-five feet below; others flung themselves down the elevator shaft in desperate attempts to escape. Firefighters at the scene were unable to cope with the situation. Water from their hoses failed to reach the flames because the pressure was too low; their ladders reached only to the sixth floor.
A throng estimated at over a hundred thousand people attended the mass funeral of the victims of the fire. Incredible as it sounds, an official inquiry later found that the Triangle Shirtwaist Company had not been guilty of negligence. Irate citizens demanded that such a tragedy never be allowed to happen again; and, as a result of the fire, new safety measures were initiated. Laws dealing with building safety were made more stringent, and firefighting equipment and methods were improved. But the changes came too late for the unfortunate 145 women who were casualties of New York’s Triangle fire.

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 did the fleeing women have trouble breathing?

2. What happened to the women who jumped from the windows?

3. What was the number of victims of the Triangle fire?

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

5. Did anything good result from the Triangle fire?

6. What did the official inquiry fail to do?
7. Why were the citizens of New York irate?

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

9. How did the narrowness of the stairway contribute to the disaster?

10. Did the women leave the work area in an orderly manner?

11. How did their inadequate equipment hamper the firefighters?

12. What is the meaning of congested as it is used in the passage?

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

14. How did the people of New York pay their respects to the dead women?

15. What was so terrible about the lack of concern by the authorities?