### Word List

**dumbfound**
* v. To make speechless with amazement.
  The announcement that my cat Patch had won “best of show” **dumbfounded** me.
  
**dumbfounded**  adj. Speechless with amazement.
  The **dumbfounded** tenants stared at the eviction notice in disbelief.

**ensue**
* v. To follow; to come as a result of or at a later time.
  When the headmaster declared the next day a holiday, shouting and clapping **ensued**.

**era**
* n. A particular period in history.
  The **era** of space exploration began in the 1950s.

**flourish**
* v. 1. To thrive or prosper.
  Plants **flourish** in a greenhouse.
  2. To wave in the air.
  The softball player **flourished** her hat above her head to acknowledge the crowd’s cheers.
  
**flourished**
* n. 1. A sweeping motion.
  The star of the show made her first entrance with a **flourish**.
  2. A showy burst of music.
  The opera begins with a **flourish** of trumpets.
  3. A fancy line or curve added to something written.
  His artistic nature was expressed in the **flourish** with which he signed his name.

**garrison**
* n. 1. Soldiers stationed in a place to protect it.
  The **garrison** held off the enemy for four days before capitulating.
  2. A military place of protection, together with its soldiers and weapons.
  The **garrison** controlled the only passage through the mountain range.
  
**garrison**
* v. To provide soldiers with a place to live.
  The commander had to **garrison** the troops in an old schoolhouse.

**grievous**
* adj. Causing grief or pain; hard to bear.
  It was a **grievous** loss to the entire family when our pet dog Tiny died.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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| **hoard**  | *v.* To save and put away, especially secretly.  
            | Squirrels **hoard** acorns for the winter.                                                      |
|            | *n.* Anything put away in such a manner.  
            | My **hoard** of comic books includes several authentic 1930s Superman comics.                  |
| **inundate** | *v.* 1. To cover, as with water from a flood.  
           | The valley was **inundated** when the dam burst.                                               |
|            | 2. To load with an excessive amount or number of something.  
            | Fans **inundated** radio stations with requests to play the Wailers’ new album.                |
| **invincible** | *adj.* Impossible to defeat.  
               | When the Yankees had a fifteen-game winning streak, we began to think they were **invincible**. |
| **nomad**  | *n.* A member of a group that settles briefly in one place and then moves on to another.  
            | The Bedouins of the Sahara and Arabian deserts were **nomads**.                                |
|            | **nomadic** *adj.* (nō mad’ ik) Having the characteristics of a nomad.  
            | After acquiring horses in the 1760s, the Cheyenne became **nomadic** buffalo hunters on the Great Plains. |
| **placate** | *v.* To stop from being angry; to calm.  
        | I was able to **placate** my friend when I explained my reason for being late.                |
| **principal** | *adj.* Most important.  
          | The administration’s **principal** objective is to reduce the school dropout rate.              |
|            | *n.* 1. A person or thing that is of the greatest importance.  
            | The club owners and the players’ agent are the **principals** in the dispute over baseball players’ salaries. |
|            | 2. The head of a school.  
            | The **principal** has the authority to hire extra teachers if student enrollment increases.   |
|            | 3. The sum of money owed, not including the interest.  
            | You would need $8,479 to pay off the **principal** on the car loan.                         |
| **recede** | *v.* 1. To move back or to drop to a lower level.  
         | The tide **receded** and exposed the rocks near the shore.                                   |
|            | 2. To become fainter.  
            | The blare of the music from the car’s radio **receded** as it disappeared into the night.     |
| **ruthless** | *adj.* Showing no mercy; pitiless.  
               | Disease and inadequate supplies finally terminated the **ruthless** invader Attila the Hun in fifth-century Europe. |

84 Lesson 9
**sacrifice**  
sak′ ri fəs  
n. 1. Something given up for the sake of another.  
The parents made many sacrifices so that their children could go to college.  
2. An offering to a god.  
In the Incan culture, sacrifices were often made during or after an earthquake, 
drought, or epidemic.  
v. 1. To give up something for another.  
I sacrificed my privacy by sharing my room with my sister.  
2. To offer something of value to a god.  
Goats and dogs were sacrificed at the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia.

### Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 9. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A flourish is  
   (b) a burst of music.  
   (c) A garrison is  
   (d) a troubling situation.  
   **Sentence:**

2. (a) A principal is  
   (b) an exchange for something else.  
   (c) A hoard is  
   (d) a collection put away secretly.  
   **Sentence:**

3. (a) speechless with amazement.  
   (b) To be grievous is to be  
   (c) To be inundated is to be  
   (d) covered with water.  
   **Sentence:**

4. (a) provide them with a place to live.  
   (b) To sacrifice soldiers is to  
   (c) try to satisfy their demands.  
   (d) To garrison soldiers is to  
   **Sentence:**

5. (a) a sum of money owed.  
   (b) a truth by which we govern ourselves.  
   (c) Principal is  
   (d) A nomad is  
   **Sentence:**
6. (a) calm that person.  
(b) To dumbfound someone is to  
(c) To placate someone is to  
(d) show that person no mercy.

7. (a) prevented from moving.  
(b) To be dumbfounded is to be  
(c) speechless with amazement.  
(d) To be invincible is to be

8. (a) An era is  
(b) A sacrifice is  
(c) a burst of music that announces an arrival.  
(d) something that is given up for another.

9. (a) lack the means to support themselves.  
(b) keep moving from place to place.  
(d) Nomadic people are those who

10. (a) a person of the greatest importance.  
(b) An era is  
(c) A flourish is  
(d) a sweeping motion.

11. (a) A ruthless person is one who  
(b) An invincible person is one who  
(c) exists only in stories.  
(d) cannot be defeated.
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 9.

1. Oil is the **most important** export of Saudi Arabia.

2. John Hancock wrote his name with a **decorative sweeping line** when he signed the Declaration of Independence.

3. In Greek myths, an animal was sometimes **slaughtered as an offering** by a mortal to please the gods.

4. Some people believe you have to be **unwilling to show any pity to those with whom you have dealings** in order to succeed in business.

5. Many childhood memories **gradually become fainter and fainter** as we grow older.

6. Tennis suffered a **serious and very sad** loss when Arthur Ashe died.

7. The **period in history given the name** of "the cold war" ended in 1990 with the easing of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

8. If this heavy rain continues, soil erosion will **follow as a result of it**.

9. The **soldiers housed in a protected place** suffered few casualties during the attack.
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 responses might **placate** an irate customer?
   (a) “Don’t blame me; I just work here.”
   (b) “I’ll take care of the problem.”
   (c) “Would you calm down!”
   (d) “Let me get the manager.”

2. A town can be **inundated** with which of the following?
   (a) floodwaters
   (b) tourists
   (c) winds of hurricane force
   (d) requests for tourist information

3. Which of the following can **flourish**?
   (a) a business
   (b) a country
   (c) a tree
   (d) an incident

4. Which of the following could be the length of an **era**?
   (a) one year
   (b) twenty seconds
   (c) a couple of centuries
   (d) a couple of hours

5. Which of the following can be **hoarded**?
   (a) health
   (b) wealth
   (c) food
   (d) solitude

6. Which of the following is true of a **nomad**?
   (a) is part of a group
   (b) has a permanent home
   (c) works at a 9 to 5 job
   (d) lives mostly in cities

7. Which of the following applies to the word **principal**?
   (a) It is not a noun.
   (b) It can be a noun or an adjective.
   (c) It is a noun only.
   (d) It is an adjective only.

8. Which of the following can be **grievous**?
   (a) a wound
   (b) a respite
   (c) a loss
   (d) a privilege
Write a synonym for each of the numbered words. Choose from the boldfaced words below.

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The Spanish Conquest of Mexico

For over two hundred years, until it was overthrown by Spanish invaders in 1519, the Aztec empire in Mexico was a prosperous and highly cultivated society. Many arts and sciences flourished; the Aztecs developed astronomy, mathematics, engineering, agriculture, sculpture, and music to a far higher degree than did the Europeans of that era. At the same time, they were a warlike people, ruthless in battle, and their religious beliefs involved acts of extreme cruelty. Prisoners of war were offered as human sacrifices to their many gods. The Aztecs believed that the gods had already destroyed the world four times, and unless they were placated in this way, they would destroy it again.

The Aztecs were originally a nomadic people who lived mainly by hunting. Around the year 1300, they settled on an island on Lake Texcoco. The land there was wet and swampy, but the Aztecs drained the marshes and became farmers. Their principal crop was corn; they also grew beans, squash, and chili peppers. Over a two-hundred-year period, they created an empire extending across central Mexico from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific. Its capital was Tenochtitlán, which we know today as Mexico City. In 1500, Tenochtitlán was inundated by a terrible flood that drowned many of its people. After the floodwaters had receded, the Aztecs quickly rebuilt their city, but a far worse catastrophe was to follow.

In 1519, a Spanish explorer named Hernando Cortés landed in Mexico with an army of 600 soldiers. He established a garrison in what is now the city of Vera Cruz on Mexico’s east coast. His plan was to destroy the Aztec army and take over their country for Spain. Because horses were unknown to the Aztecs, they were dumbfounded by the sight of people on horseback. They believed the Spanish soldiers to be gods and therefore invincible. Fighting them, the Aztecs thought, would be pointless. So Montezuma, the Aztec emperor, allowed the Spaniards to take over his city without any resistance. Cortés now gave the orders and Montezuma became a prisoner in his own palace. The Spanish discovered a great hoard of gold and silver there. It was later loaded onto Spanish ships and sent to Spain. It is believed that much of the treasure was lost at sea.
When word came that Spanish soldiers had been killed in an attack on Vera Cruz, the Aztecs realized that they had made a grievous error in their previous thinking. These strange creatures were not gods after all! A battle ensued in Tenochtitlán, and although Montezuma was killed, the Aztecs drove the Spanish from their city. But their victory was only temporary. Cortéz returned in 1521 with another army that laid siege to Tenochtitlán. After eighty days, the city was forced to surrender. The rule of the Aztecs in Mexico had ended; Spanish rule had begun.

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. When did the Aztecs give up their nomadic way of life?

2. What is the meaning of flourished as it is used in the passage?

3. What is the meaning of principal as it is used in the passage?

4. Why would thieves find Montezuma's palace especially appealing?

5. What grievous event occurred in Tenochtitlán in 1500?

6. Why would neighboring tribes not want to antagonize the Aztecs?

7. What was an initial part of Cortéz's plan to conquer Mexico?
8. What shocked the Aztecs when they first saw the Spaniards?

9. How do we know that the Aztecs feared their gods?

10. What is the meaning of sacrifices as it is used in the passage?

11. Why did the Aztecs capitulate so readily?

12. What ensued after the second surrender of Tenochtitlán?

13. In what year did the Aztec era end?

14. What is the meaning of receded as it is used in the passage?

15. What is the meaning of inundated as it is used in the passage?