## Word List

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>audacious</td>
<td>adj. 1. Willing to take risks; daring. Their <strong>audacious</strong> escape plan involved a helicopter landing in the prison yard. 2. Showing disrespect or a lack of courtesy. Judge Miller admonished the defense lawyer for her <strong>audacious</strong> remarks to the expert witness.</td>
<td>Their audacious escape plan involved a helicopter landing in the prison yard. Judge Miller admonished the defense lawyer for her <strong>audacious</strong> remarks to the expert witness.</td>
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<td>audacity</td>
<td>n. (ô das' a té) Willingness to take risks by showing excessive boldness. Oliver Twist was the only boy with the <strong>audacity</strong> to ask for more food.</td>
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<tr>
<td>confiscate</td>
<td>v. To seize, by force if necessary; to take possession of. The Miami police <strong>confiscated</strong> the stolen paintings they found stored in a closet of the mansion.</td>
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<td>conscientious</td>
<td>adj. 1. Thorough; careful. Because of our <strong>conscientious</strong> preparations, the science fair was enjoyable and informative for everyone. 2. Honest; principled. Several of the students made a <strong>conscientious</strong> effort to combat hunger by working with the food bank.</td>
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<td>depict</td>
<td>v. To give a picture of; to describe. Patrick O'Brien's seafaring novels <strong>depict</strong> life aboard a navy sailing ship with great accuracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>embark</td>
<td>v. 1. To go on board a ship or airplane at the start of a voyage. Around nine o'clock, we <strong>embarked</strong> at Woods Hole for a day of whale watching. 2. To start out; to begin. Larry Bird <strong>embarked</strong> on his professional basketball career after finishing college.</td>
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<td>inkling</td>
<td>n. A slight suspicion; a vague idea. As she opened the door, Shala had no <strong>inkling</strong> that her friends were hidden in the darkened room, waiting to shout “Surprise!”</td>
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<td>lackadaisical</td>
<td>adj. Showing little spirit or enthusiasm. When the students came after school to work on their reports, the librarian was quite <strong>lackadaisical</strong> about enforcing the no-talking rule.</td>
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<td>mutiny</td>
<td>n. Deliberate refusal to obey orders given by those in command, especially by sailors. The 1917 mutiny by French soldiers could have caused France to lose the war. v. To rebel openly against a commander. Captain Vere feared the sailors would mutiny if he didn’t discipline Billy Budd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>pilfer</td>
<td>v. To steal repeatedly small amounts or things that are of little value. Pip pilfered bread and other bits of food from his sister’s kitchen to feed the man in hiding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>profusion</td>
<td>n. A plentiful supply; a great or generous amount. Daffodils grew in profusion along the river bank. profuse adj. Given or occurring in generous amounts; abundant. Jerry’s profuse apologies convinced me he was sorry he had hurt my feelings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>prudent</td>
<td>adj. Very careful; showing judgment and wisdom. Lost in the forest, Amy argued it was more prudent to wait until morning to find the trail than to continue wandering in the dark. prudence n. The avoidance of risk; carefulness in what one says or does. Although the knight was shaking with anger, he exercised prudence, saying nothing to the king who had insulted him.</td>
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<tr>
<td>rankle</td>
<td>v. To cause continuing anger or irritation. The unfair criticism still rankled Deena, even though her friend later apologized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>rebuke</td>
<td>v. To criticize strongly; to reprimand. Mrs. Meyer rebuked Ben for his insulting remark in class. n. A sharp criticism. My employer’s rebuke seemed to include every mistake I had made since beginning the job.</td>
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<tr>
<td>serene</td>
<td>adj. Calm and untroubled; peaceful. The nurse’s serene manner comforted the patients. serenity n. (sə ren′ə tē) A calm and untroubled state. One way to achieve serenity is to practice yoga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>slovenly</td>
<td>adj. Untidy; carelessly done. Because of the carpenter’s slovenly measuring, the floor was one inch higher at the back of the room than at the front.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 5. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) one that is peaceful.  
   (b) one that changes frequently.  
   (c) A lackadaisical manner is  
   (d) A serene manner is

2. (a) To rankle someone is to  
   (b) To rebuke someone is to  
   (c) warn that person.  
   (d) criticize that person.

3. (a) a feeling of mistrust.  
   (b) Prudence is  
   (c) Audacity is  
   (d) excessive boldness.

4. (a) to describe it.  
   (b) to remember it.  
   (c) To confiscate something is  
   (d) To depict something is

5. (a) imitate another's actions.  
   (b) set out on a voyage.  
   (c) To embark is to  
   (d) To mutiny is to

6. (a) avoids unnecessary risks.  
   (b) A prudent plan is one that  
   (c) A slovenly plan is one that  
   (d) has several parts.

7. (a) To pilfer something is to  
   (b) To confiscate something is to  
   (c) take it by force.  
   (d) exchange it for something else.

8. (a) A conscientious person is one who  
   (b) A lackadaisical person is one who  
   (c) defies authority.  
   (d) does careful work.
9. (a) to rebel against authority. (c) to make a sincere effort.
(b) To mutiny is (d) To pilfer is

10. (a) they are numerous. (c) If the illustrations are profuse,
(b) If the illustrations are slovenly, (d) they are elegant.

5B 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 5.

1. Spencer’s parents wished he were not so willing to take risks as they watched him climb the rocks.

2. My sister is always accusing me of being very untidy and careless in my personal habits.

3. Poison ivy grows in very large amounts at the southern end of the island.

4. When making loans, bankers are expected to act with care to avoid anything that might be too risky.

5. An act of defiance against one’s superior is a serious crime.

6. Unlike many of the early colonists, Roger Williams, acting in a principled and honest manner, paid the Narragansetts for the land he wanted to occupy.

7. Helena had the first faint suggestion she had won the election when reporters arrived.

8. I hope you are not a person for whom an imagined slight continues to irritate just as much as a real one.
9. The group's dancing was so **lacking in enthusiasm** that they looked bored.

10. Before mountaineers can **start out** on an expedition, they need supplies.

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**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 indicates a **slovenly** person?
   (a) polished shoes
   (b) long hair
   (c) dirty fingernails
   (d) patched jeans

2. Which of the following might deserve a **rebuke**?
   (a) breaking a rule
   (b) showing negligence
   (c) saving a child's life
   (d) getting an A on a test

3. Which of the following might **rankle**?
   (a) a deliberate insult
   (b) a false accusation
   (c) an unexpected rebuff
   (d) an affable remark

4. Which of the following could be **confiscated**?
   (a) a warm smile
   (b) a sum of money
   (c) a helpful attitude
   (d) a firm promise

5. Which of the following might a **lackadaisical** student do?
   (a) ask for extra homework
   (b) get straight A's
   (c) pay close attention
   (d) daydream in class

6. Which of the following would a **conscientious** driver do?
   (a) signal before making a turn
   (b) stay alert while at the wheel
   (c) obey speed limits
   (d) ignore stop signs

7. Which of the following suggests **serenity**?
   (a) a basketball game
   (b) a sunset
   (c) a sleeping baby
   (d) a carnival ride

8. Which of the following can a person **pilfer**?
   (a) a diamond ring
   (b) a car
   (c) a candy bar
   (d) a sneeze
Write the missing word in the sentences. Choose each word from this or an earlier lesson.

1. The prefix *re-* means “back.” It combines with the Latin verb *salire* (to leap) to form the English word _________________ (able to spring back).

2. The prefix *re-* also means “again.” It combines with the Latin verb *currere* (to run) to form the English word _________________ (to happen again).

3. The prefix *de-* means “remove.” It combines with the Greek word *hydr* (water) to form the English word _________________ (to remove water from).

4. The prefix *an-* means “without.” It combines with the Greek word *onuma* (name) to form the English word _________________ (of an unknown name).

5. The Greek word *pseudes* means “false.” Combined with the Greek word for “name,” it forms the English word _________________ (a fictitious or pen name).

6. Two Greek words, *anthos*, meaning “flower,” and *legein*, meaning “to gather,” combine to form the English word _________________ (a collection of various writings).

7. The prefix *in-* means “in” or “into.” It changes to *im-* when it combines with the Latin verb *pellare* (to drive) to form the English word _________________ (to drive forward).
Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

**The Bounty, Part One**

When the captain of His Majesty's ship *Bounty* spoke to the men on watch a little after midnight, everything seemed normal. Three weeks before, on April 4, 1789, Captain Bligh and his crew had embarked for the West Indies from the tropical South Pacific island of Tahiti. For six months, they had collected breadfruit plants, which grew in profusion on Tahiti. The purpose of the voyage was to transport over a thousand of these plants, already carefully stowed on board, to the West Indies. They were to be grown as a food crop for the slaves who worked on the large plantations there.

Captain Bligh probably should have realized that not all was as serene as it seemed. He knew that his men had been loath to leave the pleasant island life to return to the more rigid structure of life aboard ship. He had, in fact, been dissatisfied with the slovenly habits they had developed while the *Bounty* had lain at anchor. Some of the crew failed to care properly for the sails. Others had pilfered from the ship because no one was keeping proper watches.

Furthermore, Captain Bligh seemed to have lost confidence in his chief mate, Fletcher Christian. It had been Christian's lackadaisical attitude, Bligh believed, that had resulted in the sailors' neglecting their duties on Tahiti. Bligh had rebuked Christian for failing to supervise the men properly. If this had ranked the chief mate, Bligh had not perceived any change in him when the two had dined together.

Despite these annoyances, Bligh's mood was calm when he returned to his cabin. He had no inkling of what was about to happen as, rocked by the gentle motion of the ship, he fell asleep. Had he been prudent, he might have posted a guard outside his cabin. As it was, its door was not even locked. Shortly before dawn, the captain was awakened abruptly. Fletcher Christian, accompanied by several crew members, burst in and informed him that they had taken over the ship. They had confiscated all the weapons on board. They had also locked up the eighteen crew members who remained loyal to the captain.

Bligh warned those who held him prisoner that for this audacious act they would all be hanged. His warning, however, had no effect. Later that morning, he and the loyal crew members were pushed into an open boat.
They were permitted to take some weapons with them and were given a small quantity of food and water. Bligh watched helplessly as Christian and the remaining crew members on board sailed off in the *Bounty*. He and the other passengers were left in the tiny boat to their fate in the middle of the vast ocean.

Three movies have been made of the *mutiny* that took place on the *Bounty* on the morning of April 28, 1789. All three *depict* Captain Bligh as a cruel man who treated his crew badly and was himself responsible for what happened. However, by using information in court documents, letters, and diaries written by people who participated in the events, several historians argue that Bligh was a *conscientious* naval officer. He was no stricter than other sea captains of the time. While he had ordered several men flogged twelve or even twenty-four lashes for being disobedient, this was the usual punishment at that time in the British navy for quite minor offenses. To this day, there is no unanimous explanation for this event that changed the lives of these men forever.

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 do you think there was such a serious punishment for *mutiny*?

2. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Fletcher Christian as a *conscientious* first mate?

3. What is one example from the passage that illustrates the crew’s *slovenly* performance?

4. Why do you suppose Christian was *rebuked* but not flogged for his supervision of the men on Tahiti?
5. What is the meaning of **embarked** as it is used in the passage?

6. What kinds of things do you think the men could have **pilfered** from the ship?

7. Why was Tahiti a good place to gather breadfruit plants?

8. What details in the passage show that Bligh was not **lackadaisical** about running his ship?

9. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the men who took over the ship were acting in a **prudent** manner?

10. Was Bligh **rankled** by his men’s behavior as he went to sleep on April 27, 1789? Explain.

11. Why is it likely that Captain Bligh did not feel **serene** as he watched the **Bounty** sail away?

12. How did Fletcher Christian make sure that none of the crew would resist his takeover?
13. How do we know that no one warned the captain of possible trouble?

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

15. Why do you think Captain Bligh was depicted as cruel in the movies about this event?

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**FUN & FASCINATING FACTS**

- The word **lackadaisical** has an interesting history. In the eighteenth century, a person might express regret for a failure to act properly by saying, "Alack the day." Translated into modern English it means, "I'm sorry that day happened." The expression shortened to "lackaday," and a person used it frequently was described as **lackadaisical**. Lax is a separate word, meaning "not strict or demanding." (Accidents occurred because of the lax safety rules at the plant.) Don’t substitute **laxadaisical**, which is not in any dictionary, for **lackadaisical**.

- In early Roman times, tax collectors working for the state put the money they collected in baskets woven from rushes. The Latin name for this basket was **fiscus**. Fiscal, which means "having to do with money collected and spent by the state," is formed from **fiscus**. So is the word **confiscate**. The state has the power to seize, by force if necessary, money owed to it by its citizens.