

Lesson 3

For more practice and games, go to www.WordlyWise3000.com.



Word List

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

ancestor
an' ses tər

n. 1. A person from whom one is descended.

My **ancestors** came from Italy.

2. An early kind of animal from which later ones have developed; a forerunner.

The dog-sized mesohippus is the **ancestor** of the modern horse.

carnivore
kär' ni vôr

n. A flesh-eating animal.

Carnivores have sharp, pointed teeth that enable them to tear the meat they eat.

carnivorous *adj.* (kär niv' ə r ə s) Flesh-eating.

Although dogs are **carnivorous**, they will often eat other foods besides meat.

comprehend
käm prē hend'

v. To understand.

If you don't **comprehend** the question, let me know and I will word it differently.

comprehension *n.* The act of understanding; the ability to understand.

Pawel cannot speak Spanish very well, but his **comprehension** is quite good.

duration
door ā' shən

n. The time during which something lasts or continues.

We stayed in our house for the **duration** of the heavy downpour.

evident
ev' ə dənt

adj. Easy to see and understand; obvious, clear.

It is **evident** from your manner that you are not happy to see me.

extinct
ek stɪŋkt'

adj. 1. No longer existing or living.

The giant woolly mammoth became **extinct** about ten thousand years ago.

2. No longer active.

Mount Saint Helens was believed to be an **extinct** volcano until it suddenly became active in 1980.

ferocious
fə rō' shəs

adj. Savage; fierce.

Doberman pinschers make **ferocious** guard dogs.

ferocity *n.* (fə rās' ə tē) The state or quality of being fierce.

The **ferocity** of the storm surprised us.

gigantic
jī gan' tik

adj. Very large; like a giant in size.

The *Spruce Goose* was a **gigantic** airplane that made only one flight.

obscure
äb skyoor'

v. To cover up or keep from being seen.

Clouds **obscured** the moon.

adj. 1. Hard to see; hidden.

The boat was an **obscure** shape in the mist.

2. Not easy to understand.

The poem was full of **obscure** words like "clough" and "moraine."

option
äp' shän

n. Choice, or something that is available as a choice.

We had the **option** of practicing soccer during the lunch break or after school.

optional *adj.* Left to choice.

Bill said we should attend the meeting, but staying for the party afterward was **optional**.

premature
prē mä choor'

adj. Too early; happening or arriving before the proper time.

Premature babies require special care before they are allowed to leave the hospital.

preserve
prē zärv'

v. 1. To save; to keep from harm; to protect.

This law will help to **preserve** the old forests in the national parks.

2. To keep from rotting or spoiling.

Steve and Martha **preserve** the peaches from their orchard by canning them.

prey
prā

n. 1. An animal that is hunted for food.

Chickens are the natural **prey** of foxes.

2. One that is helpless or unable to resist attack; a victim.

Be alert when you travel so that you will not be **prey** to thieves.

v. 1. To hunt (animals) for food.

Wolves **prey** on the weakest deer in the herd.

2. To take from or rob using violence or trickery.

The pickpockets **preyed** on newly arrived tourists, who were usually concentrating on their surroundings.

puny
pyōō' nē

adj. 1. Weak.

Lifting weights can change **puny** muscles into powerful ones.

2. Lacking in size, strength, or power.

My one dollar offering seemed **puny** compared to what others gave.

survive
sər vīv'

v. 1. To stay alive where there is a chance of dying or being killed.

Only three passengers **survived** the plane crash.

2. To continue living or existing through a threatening situation.

Only two of the eight maple trees in our yard **survived** the hurricane.

survivor n. One who stays alive while others die.

Survivors of the shipwreck floated on life rafts until the helicopter could pick them up.

3A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 3. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) it is easy to see. (c) If something is premature,
(b) If something is evident, (d) it has lasted for a long time.

2. (a) from whom one is descended. (c) An ancestor is someone
(b) who does not eat meat. (d) A survivor is someone

3. (a) To prey on wildlife is to (c) keep it from harm.
(b) To preserve wildlife is to (d) have a complete understanding of it.

4. (a) A gigantic volcano is one that (c) is no longer active.
(b) An extinct volcano is one that (d) is hidden from view.

5. (a) is to let it get away. (c) To prey on something
(b) To obscure something (d) is to hunt it for food.

6. (a) The comprehension of something is
(b) the length of time that it lasts. (c) the length of time it is delayed.
(d) The duration of something is
-
-

7. (a) that is very big.
(b) that is well known. (c) A puny figure is one
(d) A gigantic figure is one
-
-

8. (a) is one that has not died out.
(b) is one that seems strange. (c) A practice that is optional
(d) A practice that survives
-
-

9. (a) one that leaves nothing out.
(b) A premature report is (c) An obscure report is
(d) one that is hard to understand.
-
-

10. (a) A ferocious creature is
(b) one that has died out. (c) An extinct creature is
(d) one that eats only meat.
-
-

ancestor
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prey
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survive

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 3.

1. The house was **hidden from view** by a thick hedge.
2. My two-horsepower engine is **lacking in power** compared to the fifty-horsepower one in your boat.
3. It is **easy to see** from the dishes in the sink that someone has already eaten lunch.
4. The film captures the **fierce behavior** of a mother tiger defending her cubs.
5. The pirate Blackbeard **attacked and robbed the people** on ships in the Caribbean.
6. To announce the holiday schedule now would be **to do so before the time is right**.
7. After the flood, the **people who remained alive** returned to their homes to clean away the mud.
8. Alberto had no other **choice open** but to take the test on Friday, even though he was still sick.
9. We did not stay for the **entire time** of the concert because Madeleine was too tired.
10. Lions and tigers are **animals that eat meat**.

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following would be **optional** on most cars?

(a) brakes	(c) roof rack
(b) tires	(d) CD player

2. Which of the following can be **preserved**?

(a) freedom	(c) letters
(b) fruit	(d) clouds

3. Which of the following can become **extinct**?

(a) languages	(c) plants
(b) volcanoes	(d) animals

4. Which of the following is an **ancestor**?

(a) your brother	(c) your great-grandmother
(b) your daughter	(d) your grandson

5. Which of the following are **carnivorous**?

(a) wolves	(c) cows
(b) rabbits	(d) deer

6. Which of the following can be **premature**?

(a) a death	(c) an announcement
(b) a holiday	(d) a baby

7. Which of the following might be **ferocious**?

(a) a polar bear	(c) a hungry dog
(b) a teddy bear	(d) a hungry baby

8. Which of the following might be hard to **comprehend**?

(a) a computer game	(c) a foreign language
(b) a shopping list	(d) a card game

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Many English words come from Latin roots. Our word *liberty*, for example, is formed from the Latin word *liber*, meaning "free."

In each space, write the Latin word forming the root of each English word, together with its meaning. Choose from the ten Latin words shown.

cultus (plow)

trahere (to draw)

ferox (fierce)

maturus (fully grown)

vivere (to live)

carnis (meat)

durare (to last)

videre (to see)

pedester (on foot)

prehendere (grasp)

- | <u>Definition</u> | <u>English Word</u> | <u>Latin Word</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. not fully formed | premature | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 2. to stay alive | survive | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 3. meat-eating | carnivore | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 4. with great savagery | ferocious | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 5. one who goes on foot | pedestrian | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 6. to till or work the soil | cultivate | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 7. to draw attention away | distract | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |
| 8. to grasp the meaning of | comprehend | _____ |
| <u>Meaning</u> _____ | | |

9. the time something lasts duration _____

Meaning _____

10. plain to see evident _____

Meaning _____

3E

Passage

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

The Last Dinosaurs



When people think of dinosaurs, the one that comes to mind most frequently is *Tyrannosaurus rex*. This **gigantic** monster was almost fifty feet in length and weighed five tons. *Tyrannosaurus rex* had curved eight-inch talons on its feet. It also had a huge jaw lined with teeth as long and as sharp as steak knives. It was thought to have been the most terrifying of all the **carnivorous** dinosaurs.

Imagine the surprise, then, of some scientists who were digging in eastern Utah in 1992. They found **preserved** in the rock the remains of a dinosaur. Not just any dinosaur, but one that could well have been a match for *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Named *Utahraptor*, this **ferocious** creature was “only” twenty feet long. But it had twelve-inch hooked claws on each of its hind legs. Unlike *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which had surprisingly short and **puny** forelimbs, *Utahraptor* had large, powerful arms equipped with ten-inch claws. With these it could grasp its **prey** and bring its victim down. Then it could slash with the terrible claws on its hind feet. Flight was not an **option** for an animal being attacked. The *Utahraptor* had sturdy back legs. It could probably outrun any other creature. But a contest between these two powerful creatures of the dinosaur world was not to be. It never took place, for one reason: all of the *Utahraptors* had been dead for fifty million years before *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever appeared.

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It is difficult to **comprehend** the vast stretch of time that dinosaurs lived on Earth. They lasted well over a hundred and fifty million years. *Tyrannosaurus rex* was among the last of the dinosaurs; it died out sixty-five million years ago. Human beings have been around for only two or three million years. It will be a long time before we equal the **duration** of the dinosaurs' stay on Earth.

No one knows why these creatures became **extinct**. But it seems **evident** from the record left in Earth's crust that it happened fairly suddenly. We know that a meteorite, a large mass of rock or metal from outer space, once hit Earth. This was in what is now Mexico about sixty-five million years ago. The meteorite made a crater almost two hundred miles across. Dust from such an impact would have **obscured** the light from the sun for many weeks. The result would have been freezing temperatures. Much of Earth's plant life would have died. That would have made it difficult for many animals to **survive**.

However, it would be **premature** to say for certain that this was what brought an end to the dinosaurs; scientists are still studying the subject. Indeed, scientists in China have discovered the bones of *Sinornis*, a feathered dinosaur that perched and flew. This has led some to claim that this creature may be the **ancestor** of today's birds. If this turns out to be true, then it would be possible to say that the dinosaurs never died out at all.

- **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. How do scientists know that *Utahraptor* ever lived?

2. What was the **duration** of the age of the dinosaurs?

3. When did the last of the dinosaurs die out?

4. What are some things scientists now **comprehend** about *Utahraptor*?

5. What is the meaning of **prey** as it is used in the passage?

6. How did *Tyrannosaurus rex* compare in size to *Utahraptor*?

7. What is the meaning of **survive** as it is used in the passage?

8. What were the **options** of a creature attacked by *Utahraptor*?

9. Were the forelimbs of *Tyrannosaurus rex* as powerful as those of *Utahraptor*?

10. Why is it **premature** to say for certain what brought an end to the dinosaurs?

11. Did the dinosaurs die out over a long period of time?

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12. Why would a meteorite crashing into the earth affect the sunlight?

13. Why do some scientists say a dinosaur may be the **ancestor** of birds?

14. How would you describe the eating habits of *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Utahraptor*?

15. Why would other creatures probably try to avoid *Utahraptor*?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

- A **carnivore** is a meat-eating animal, especially a mammal that hunts for its food. Certain plants that eat insects, such as the Venus flytrap, are also *carnivorous*. The word comes from the Latin *carn*, which means “meat” or “flesh.” *Chili con carne* is a Spanish phrase in which the word *carne* comes from the same Latin word; the phrase means “chili with meat.”
- **Prey** and *pray* are homophones, words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. To pray means to ask, request, or plead; *pray* can also mean to offer praise, ask for help, or give thanks.
- The Latin phrase *puis ne* means “born afterward” and was applied to Roman children of noble birth who followed the firstborn. Since Roman titles and property passed to the oldest, the other children, those who were *puis ne*, were considered to be less powerful. The phrase passed into English as our adjective **puny**.
- Things that are hard, such as stone, iron, or bones, are slow to decay or wear away, and so they last a long time. The Romans saw how these two qualities, of being hard and lasting a long time, were related. The Latin words *durus* “hard,” and *durare*, “to last a long time” show this connection and form the root of several English words. In addition to **duration**, there is *endure*, which means “to last a long time.” In the United States, the separation of church and state is a concept that has *endured* for more than two centuries. *Durable* goods are items such as cars and refrigerators that are expected to last a long time.

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