

Lesson 8

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Word List

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

assemble
ə sem' bəl

v. 1. To bring together into a group; to gather.

At two o'clock we **assembled** at the door of the museum for a tour.

2. To put or fit together.

You need only a screwdriver to **assemble** the bookcase.

assembly n. 1. A group of people gathered for a certain purpose.

At the **assembly** this morning, the fire chief will talk to us about fire prevention.

2. The fitting together of various parts.

The **assembly** of the new gas grill took us less than an hour.

banquet
ban' kwət

n. A large meal for many people; a feast.

Six courses were served at the **banquet**, which was given in honor of the teachers who were retiring.

cargo
kär' go

n. The load carried by a plane or ship.

The **cargo** going to Chile was put into containers and loaded onto the boat.

cask
kask

n. A barrel-shaped container, especially one for holding liquids.

Beverages were imported to colonial New England in large **casks**.

celebrate
sel' ə brāt

v. To honor something in a special way.

Americans **celebrate** the signing of the Declaration of Independence every Fourth of July.

celebrated adj. Famous.

When Charles Dickens toured America, huge crowds turned out to hear the **celebrated** author.

decrease
dē krēs'

v. To become smaller or less.

After June 22, the length of the day gradually **decreases**.

n. The amount by which something becomes smaller.

An outbreak of flu caused a **decrease** in school attendance during January.

desperate
des' pər ət

adj. 1. Reckless because of feelings of despair.

The action star jumped from a five-story building in a **desperate** attempt to escape her captors.

2. So serious as to be almost hopeless.

The situation of the homeless in our big cities is becoming increasingly **desperate**.

edible
ed' ə bəl

adj. Safe or fit to be eaten.

Are you certain those mushrooms are **edible**?

n. An item of food; anything that can be eaten.

We'll serve the beverages at this end of the table and the sandwiches and other **edibles** at the other end.

frivolous
friv' ə ləs

adj. Not serious or important; silly.

Spending money on items like comic books seems **frivolous** to someone who has no money for food.

frivolity *n.* (fri vəl' ə tē) Silly or lighthearted play.

The giggling children had to be reminded that **frivolity** has no place at a funeral.

harvest
här' vəst

n. 1. The gathering of ripe crops for a season.

In Spain, the grape **harvest** begins in late summer.

2. the quantity of crops gathered.

Iowa's corn **harvest** is the largest in years.

v. To gather in the crops.

We usually **harvest** the first peas in April.

hew
hyoo

v. 1. To chop down or cut with blows from an ax.

Let's **hew** these dead branches from the tree before they fall and cause damage.

2. To cut or shape with blows of an ax or similar tool.

The Tlingit of the Northwest **hewed** totem poles from tree trunks.

hostile
häs' təl

adj. Unfriendly; of or like an enemy.

The **hostile** audience would not permit the speaker to finish the speech.

hostility *n.* The expression of unfriendly feelings.

The governor's plan to close the neighborhood school met with so much **hostility** that it was quickly dropped.

pledge v. To make a serious promise.
plej A dozen local merchants have **pledged** their support for the new arts program.
n. A serious promise.
Before I was hired, I had to sign a **pledge** that I would not give away company secrets.

prosper v. To succeed, especially in terms of money.
präs'pær Alaska **prospered** when oil was found there.
prosperous adj. Enjoying growth and success.
The **prosperous** 1920s ended with the stock market crash of 1929.

task n. A piece of work that needs to be done.
task Cutting our way through the underbrush was a difficult **task**.

8A Finding Meanings

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) unsure of oneself. (c) To be desperate is to be
(b) reckless because of despair. (d) To be prosperous is to be

2. (a) To decrease aid is to (c) abolish it.
(b) To pledge aid is to (d) promise it.

3. (a) willingness to make enemies. (c) Prosperity is
(b) lighthearted play. (d) Frivolity is

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4. (a) To hew something is to
(b) shape it with an ax. (c) put it together.
(d) To harvest something is to
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5. (a) A celebrated person (c) is someone who is unfriendly.
(b) is someone who is careless. (d) A hostile person
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6. (a) A banquet is (c) a piece of work to be done.
(b) A task is (d) payment for work done.
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7. (a) A celebrated object (c) is one that is easily broken.
(b) An edible object (d) is one that is famous.
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8. (a) is to put it together. (c) is to shape it by cutting.
(b) To harvest something (d) To assemble something
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9. (a) A cargo is (c) the front of a ship.
(b) A cask is (d) a barrel used for holding liquids.
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10. (a) Banquets are (c) things that can be eaten.
(b) seats put around a table. (d) Edibles are
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-

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. My cousin thinks television game shows are **silly and lighthearted** and fun to watch.
2. Our fruit stand is **enjoying a great deal of success** this year compared with previous years.
3. My piano teacher says that formal dress is required for the **large dinner at which many people will be served**.
4. Teachers and students **gathered together in a group** outside the building when the alert sounded.
5. The dock workers will unload the **goods carried by the ship** after the passengers go ashore.
6. In August and September all of us worked many hours to help with the **gathering in of the crops**.
7. A count of tourists coming to South Carolina beaches showed a **drop in their number** for the third year in a row.
8. The bright red berries of the yew tree are not **safe to eat**.
9. The situation of those who survived the earthquake was **so serious as to be almost hopeless**.
10. The **unfriendly feelings expressed** at the meeting made me decide to leave early.

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

- Which of the following might be found in a **cask**?
(a) pedestrians (c) water
(b) crevices (d) potatoes
- Which of the following might be found at a **banquet**?
(a) blizzards (c) guests
(b) pedestrians (d) beverages
- Which of the following is a **task**?
(a) cleaning one's room (c) weeding a garden
(b) falling asleep (d) attending college
- Which of the following can be **assembled**?
(a) the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle (c) a bookcase
(b) the parts of a machine (d) a branch of a tree
- Which of the following can be **hewed**?
(a) logs (c) twigs
(b) trees (d) paintings
- Which of the following can be **harvested**?
(a) apples (c) mushrooms
(b) aromas (d) gales
- Which of the following do people **celebrate**?
(a) birthdays (c) victories
(b) weddings (d) retirement
- Which of the following might be part of a **cargo**?
(a) grain (c) oil
(b) automobiles (d) nostalgia

Here are ten Latin words that provide roots for some English words.

<i>frigus</i>	cold	<i>aequus</i>	equal
<i>vivere</i>	to live	<i>fligere</i>	to strike
<i>solus</i>	alone	<i>hostis</i>	enemy
<i>proximus</i>	nearest	<i>portare</i>	to carry
<i>fascinare</i>	to cast a spell on	<i>desperare</i>	to give up hope

Fill in the blank spaces in each of the sentences.

1. A **desperate** person is one who feels trapped in a hopeless situation. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
2. To be **solitary** is to be alone. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
3. A **hostile** act is one that is unfriendly. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
4. **Equivalent** amounts are equal to each other. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
5. An **approximate** number is one that is fairly accurate without being exact. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
6. A **frigid** climate is one that is very cold. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
7. To **revive** something is to bring it back to life. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
8. To **export** goods is to have them carried to other countries. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
9. To be absolutely **fascinated** by something is to be spellbound by it. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.
10. To **inflict** harm on someone is to hurt that person. The word comes from the Latin _____, meaning _____.

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

The First Thanksgiving



The hundred or so Pilgrims and other passengers who left England in 1620 aboard the *Mayflower* arrived at Plymouth, in what is now Massachusetts. Before going ashore, the forty-one male passengers **assembled** in the ship's main cabin. There they wrote the Mayflower Compact. Under this agreement, everyone, Pilgrims and non-Pilgrims alike, would be governed by the same laws. All those present **pledged** to observe the Compact.

The Pilgrims had come ashore at the end of December. They had to work fast to prepare for winter. Their first **task** was to build shelter to keep themselves safe from animals and bad weather. Soon the sound of axes rang out as trees were chopped down and **hewed** into logs. Next, the *Mayflower's* **cargo** had to be unloaded. There were root vegetables and lemons in crates, sacks of sugar and flour, and cider in **casks**. Also onboard were slabs of salt pork and beef, and seeds for planting in the spring. There were small items of furniture, and chests packed with blankets, linens, and clothes. There were family Bibles and tools of all kinds. But there were no musical instruments—the Pilgrims considered music and dancing to be **frivolous**.

That first winter was a grim one. Food was scarce. Many people became sick and died. By the time the *Mayflower* sailed back to England in the early spring, the number of people remaining had **decreased** to fewer than sixty. Many of that group were too feeble to work. Those who had survived the winter were also worried that the Native Americans would be **hostile** toward them as new settlers.

One spring day they were very surprised when a Native American walked into their settlement and greeted them in English. His name was Samoset; he explained that he had learned English from sea captains who had earlier explored the Atlantic coast. He told them of another man, Squanto, who also spoke English. A week or so later he returned with Squanto and sixty Wampanoags, who lived nearby. The colonists were glad that their visitors were friendly. With their food almost gone, their situation was **desperate**.

Because of the help of these native people, the colonists quickly learned which berries and other fruits were **edible**. They learned where to catch fish, and the best way to grow corn, beans, and squash. When they needed to talk with other native people, Squanto often acted as their translator.

Later in 1621, after the first **harvest**, the colonists held a **banquet** and invited Massasoit, the leader of the Wampanoags, to bring his people to **celebrate** with them. This was the first Thanksgiving; it lasted three days. The worst was now over for the colonists. When the *Mayflower* returned in 1622, it brought more people to join the colony. It also carried precious supplies. More ships arrived in the following years; the Plymouth colony grew in size and began to **prosper**. Its future was no longer in doubt.

▶ 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. What do Americans today do to remember the large dinner that took place at Plymouth in 1621?

2. If the Pilgrims were alive today, what do you suppose they might think of rock concerts?

3. What did the *Mayflower* carry besides the passengers and crew?

4. What **task** did the forty-one male passengers complete before going ashore?

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

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6. What valuable information did the Native Americans give the colonists?

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

8. Why was it likely that the colonists would obey the rules set out in the Mayflower Compact?

9. What beverage might have been served at the **banquet**?

10. What would happen to the contents of a **cask** if it got a hole in it?

11. What might the colonists have **harvested** in 1621?

12. In what way did the Native Americans surprise the colonists?

13. How many colonists survived the first winter?

14. Why might the survivors of the first winter have felt **desperate**?

15. How do you think life in the colony changed as it **prospered**?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

• The antonym of **edible** is *inedible*. (The food was so overcooked that it was *inedible*.) Another antonym is *poisonous*. (Cultivated mushrooms are *edible*, but some wild mushrooms are *poisonous*.)

• Don't confuse **hew** with *hue*, which is a color or shade of color. (Aqua is a blue color with a greenish *hue*.) These two words

are homophones; they are pronounced the same, but have different meanings and spellings.

• **Pledge** and *promise* are synonyms, but a pledge is a serious promise, made concerning something important. You might *promise* to meet a friend after school; you *pledge* allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the republic for which it stands.

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