



## Word List

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

**accoutrements**  
ə kōō' trə mants

*n. pl.* Equipment or accessories.

Deborah had two bags for film, lenses, and her other photography **accoutrements**.

**aggrieved**  
ə grēvd'

*adj.* Feeling or expressing a sense of injustice, injury, or offense.

Hank's **aggrieved** attitude is understandable since he was treated so unfairly.

**choleric**  
kāl' ə rik

*adj.* Easily angered; quick-tempered.

The coach grew increasingly **choleric** as it became apparent that the players were disobeying his orders.

**comport**  
kəm pōrt'

*v.* 1. To behave or conduct oneself.

In public Alec was usually solemn, but he **comported** himself quite differently in private.

2. To be in accord or agreement. Used with *with*.

What Naomi stated as policy does not **comport** with what I read in the personnel manual.

**disconcert**  
dis kən sɜrt'

*v.* To disrupt the self-possession or confidence of; to perturb or fluster.

I was **disconcerted** by my brother's display of levity at the memorial service.

**disconcerting** *adj.*

Marie found it **disconcerting** to have Sam ask her a question and then to see him ignore her as she began to answer.

**fauna**  
fō' nə

*n.* Animals of a region or period, considered as a whole.

The **fauna** of the North American woodlands includes deer, fox, and bear.

**interpose**  
in tər pōz'

*v.* To place or come between; to intervene or interrupt.

Roberta **interposed** herself between the two children to distract them from their argument.

**maraud**  
mə rôd'

*v.* To roam in search of plunder.

Centuries ago highwaymen **marauded** the Dover Road, stopping stagecoaches and robbing the passengers.

**marauder** *n.*

The Vikings were the most infamous **marauders** of all who plundered the North Sea coasts.

**modicum**  
mäd' ə kəm

*n.* A small amount.

Republicans thought the tax bill would pass even if it received only a **modicum** of support from the Democrats.

**opulent**  
äp' yə lənt

*adj.* Having or exhibiting great wealth or abundance.  
Why, she wondered as she leafed through magazines at the newsstand, were there so many articles featuring the **opulent** homes of very rich people?

**opulence** *n.*

The architecture and furnishings of the palace at Versailles are remarkable for their **opulence**.

**patrician**  
pə trish' ən

*n.* A member of the nobility.  
Lord Gorton was a **patrician** who found it expedient to pose as a man of the people.

*adj.* Of noble birth; showing refinement of taste or manners.

Corinne's interests in fine wine and antiques reveal a **patrician** sensibility.

**phlegmatic**  
fleg mat' ik

*adj.* Not given to action or reaction; sluggish or calm in temperament.

Although Breon was a **phlegmatic** child, she grew into an active, decisive teenager.

**propensity**  
prə pen' sə tē

*n.* A natural inclination or tendency.

My mother has a **propensity** for bursting into song when something in a conversation reminds her of a particular verse.

**therapeutic**  
ther ə pyōō' tik

*adj.* Relating to the treatment of a disease; contributing to general well-being.

A doctor who exudes kindness can have a **therapeutic** effect on the patient.

**utilitarian**  
yōō til ə ter' ē ən

*adj.* Relating to usefulness rather than beauty; practical.

The phrase "form follows function" reflects a **utilitarian** approach to design.

2A

## Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. To **comport** with the known facts is to represent them falsely.

2. To **maraud** is to roam in search of plunder.

3. An area's **fauna** consists of the animals that are native to it.

4. An **opulent** display is one characterized by rich abundance.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Utilitarian** accommodations are those that provide the bare necessities.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. A **choleric** person is one who remains imperturbable despite provocation.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. A **patrician** is a person of noble birth.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. To **interpose** something is to place it between two things.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Accoutrements** are little sandwiches served as appetizers.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. To **disconcert** someone is to exclude that person from consideration.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. A **modicum** is an essential part of any computer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. A **therapeutic** product is one that has healing properties.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. A **propensity** for hard work is a natural inclination for it.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. An **aggrieved** person is one who has done an injustice to another.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. A **phlegmatic** person is one who is imperturbable.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group following it, write the word in the blank space. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. **interpose**

- (a) The artist \_\_\_\_\_ blue and orange to create visual movement in this painting.
- (b) My opponent \_\_\_\_\_ her pawn between my bishop and her king.
- (c) I hope I did not \_\_\_\_\_ on you by staying one more night.

2. **modicum**

- (a) The quark of an atomic nucleus is the smallest \_\_\_\_\_ known to science.
- (b) If he had even a \_\_\_\_\_ of sensitivity, he would offer you his apologies.
- (c) A \_\_\_\_\_ of salt is all that is needed to enhance the flavor of the soup.

3. **utilitarian**

- (a) These \_\_\_\_\_ steel desks replaced the ornamental walnut and mahogany ones after the renovation.
- (b) Despite its \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, the SUV is a luxury vehicle.
- (c) Last fall the \_\_\_\_\_ companies raised their rates on electricity to businesses.

4. **disconcert**

- (a) To find oneself face to face with the president can be \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) The strange look she gave me when I asked her name was quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Are you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself completely from the project?

5. **comport**

- (a) All of the data gathered so far \_\_\_\_\_ with the theory of global warming.
- (b) Niels intends to \_\_\_\_\_ himself as a space alien for Halloween.
- (c) She \_\_\_\_\_ herself with great dignity despite her difficult circumstances.

6. **aggrieved**

- (a) The \_\_\_\_\_ party has a right to sue the person who caused the injury.
- (b) I admit that I felt \_\_\_\_\_ when they left without an explanation or apology.
- (c) The \_\_\_\_\_ knee should heal in a week if you give it rest.

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7. **propensity**

- (a) My father's car has a \_\_\_\_\_ to pull to the left when I put on the brakes.
- (b) His \_\_\_\_\_ for having his picture taken as often as possible caused us much amusement.
- (c) Katya was driven by her \_\_\_\_\_ to graduate early.

8. **patrician**

- (a) You can become a \_\_\_\_\_ of the theater by donating five hundred dollars.
- (b) Only a \_\_\_\_\_ could hold high office in the ancient Roman republic.
- (c) Angela could not satisfy her \_\_\_\_\_ tastes because her work as a daycare teacher paid very poorly.

**2c** **Word Study**

Each group of words contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle them. Then circle S if they are synonyms or A if they are antonyms.

1. subterfuge	center	opulent	periphery	S	A
2. propensity	modicum	tendency	admission	S	A
3. reduction	fluctuation	levity	increment	S	A
4. utilitarian	detrimental	therapeutic	arcane	S	A
5. accessories	subterfuges	increments	accoutrements	S	A
6. benevolent	apocryphal	phlegmatic	choleric	S	A
7. vacillate	mortify	waver	interpose	S	A
8. reiterate	summon	convene	aggrieve	S	A
9. imperturbable	incremental	apocryphal	excitable	S	A
10. placated	confused	aggrieved	opulent	S	A

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. **maraud**

- (a) The burglars gained entry to the house by breaking a kitchen window.
- (b) Their ship destroyed, the sailors were unable to leave the tiny island.
- (c) Residents barricaded themselves in their homes when the outlaw gang rode into town.

2. **opulence**

- (a) While in Los Angeles, we took the tour of famous movie stars' homes.
- (b) The enormous blossoms that filled the garden gave off a heady perfume.
- (c) A limousine glided up the long driveway to the mansion.

3. **fauna**

- (a) Cactus plants grow in the wild only in the Americas.
- (b) Kangaroos are native to Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea.
- (c) Canada has a population of about twenty-five million.

4. **modicum**

- (a) The average age of the class was fourteen years and five months.
- (b) Even though he only had a few hours of training, Dan was able to use the new computer.
- (c) Mary repaid the money in regular installments spread over two years.

5. **choleric**

- (a) The farmer became red in the face and bellowed at us to get off his land.
- (b) A cholera epidemic can take many lives.
- (c) People quick to anger may put themselves at risk of a heart attack.

6. **accoutrements**

- (a) Each soldier was issued a backpack, a cartridge belt, and a steel helmet.
- (b) She wore a plain black skirt, a white blouse, and low-heeled shoes.
- (c) I walked to the pier with my rod and reel, a line, some hooks, and sinkers.

7. **propensity**

- (a) Objects fall to earth because of gravity's attractive force.
- (b) Aunt Kate tends to pull her earlobe when she is nervous.
- (c) This is the fourth time this week that Jarrett has lost his car keys.

8. **disconcert**

- (a) The pipe had become detached from the joint, causing the leak.
- (b) We unplugged all the appliances before closing down the summer cottage.
- (c) There were no hard feelings when the rock group broke up after two years.

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9. **therapeutic**

- (a) Malaria is caused by the bite of the anopheline mosquito.
- (b) Applying ice promptly to the affected area reduces the severity of a burn.
- (c) Sometimes a hug is all you need when you're feeling discouraged.

10. **phlegmatic**

- (a) The river moved sluggishly as it meandered across the lowlands.
- (b) When Grace discovered the full extent of her losses, she just shrugged.
- (c) A hush fell over the audience as the conductor raised his baton.

2E

Passage

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

## Looking at Llamas

The llama, a member of the camel family, is not listed among the **fauna** of North America. Yet since the early 1900s, when they were introduced here from South America, llamas have made themselves at home to such an extent that there are now an estimated fifteen thousand of these remarkable creatures living in the United States. While the first llamas were imported as exotic pets for the wealthy, llamas soon outgrew this limited role as symbols of **opulence**. Their intelligence, affability, and enjoyment of human company, along with their ability to perform many **utilitarian** tasks, soon placed them in demand.

Today, sheep ranchers use llamas to guard their flocks from coyotes and from **marauding** dogs. Attacks by these animals account for more than half of all sheep losses. When shooting, trapping, and poisoning these predators proved ineffectual, sheep ranchers began using llamas to defend their flocks. They found them to be extremely protective of their charges. The llama will **interpose** itself between the flock and a threatening coyote or dog; its aggressive posture usually **disconcerts** the attacker sufficiently that it backs off. If it doesn't, the llama will charge. While this usually drives the predator away, occasionally the llama becomes the victim.

Other enthusiastic supporters of llamas are the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service. Rangers from these agencies take advantage of the fact that llamas are extremely independent animals. With a **modicum** of training, they make excellent pack animals. The rangers use them to transport supplies in areas where wheeled vehicles cannot go. Because of their two-toed padded feet, llamas are far less destructive of fragile trails than horses or mules, which have hard hooves. In addition, their **phlegmatic** nature makes them easy to manage. This is an important consideration since both agencies use volunteers who need extensive training to cope with horses and mules but who require minimal instruction in handling llamas.

Once shown how to perform a task, llamas will do it—provided that it interests them. One of the more unusual occupations in which they are employed makes use of this intelligence. Llamas can be found in increasing numbers on the nation's golf courses, acting as caddies. Loaded down with all the golfing **accoutrements** considered necessary for the game, the llamas plod along between holes, wait patiently at the greens, and are said to have a calming effect on those golfers who may become **choleric** after missing an easy putt. Llamas are extremely fastidious and easily trained, so each hole has a toilet area set aside for their use.

Even as these accommodating creatures enter more and more occupations, their traditional role as family pets continues. Llamas establish an instant rapport with their owners and are exceptionally gentle with children. A healthy llama can be bought for less than a thousand dollars, but the **patricians** of the llama world, those used for selective breeding, sell for more than fifteen thousand dollars.

One persistent myth about the llama is that it has an unfortunate **propensity** to spit in people's faces. This does not **comport** with the facts. It is true that if it is frightened, it may respond in this way, or if its forbearance is severely tested, an **aggrieved** llama may show its displeasure by spitting. Owners, however, are quick to point out that this behavior is rare and is usually directed at another llama invading its space. So well-disposed are llamas toward people, in fact, that they are playing an important **therapeutic** role in helping people with severe mental illnesses. In one program in South Carolina, patients are each assigned a llama to serve as companion and pack animal on wilderness treks. Human and llama establish a bond, offering the patient an opportunity to relate to another creature in an unthreatening situation. The practice is effective, the program's director says, because "llamas accept you just the way you are."

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► Answer each question in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a word from the lesson, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. What details in the passage suggest that llamas have a **propensity** for human company?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What **accoutrements** may llamas carry when accompanying folks on a wilderness trek?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is one example from the passage showing how llamas are not always **phlegmatic**?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why are llamas allowed on golf courses?

\_\_\_\_\_



5. What might happen if a llama becomes **disconcerted**?

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6. When did the llama first appear in North America?

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7. Why do rangers prefer to use llamas as pack animals in fragile wilderness areas rather than horses or mules?

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8. How was the llama's **patrician** status changed by its role as a working animal?

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9. What examples in the passage illustrate the **therapeutic** effect llamas have?

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10. Why would it be inaccurate to say that llamas are a symbol of **opulence** today?

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### TRIVIA: FASCINATING FACTS

- **Fauna** is a general term for all the animals of a region or geological period. The word comes from Faunus, a Roman god of nature whose followers were called *fauns* and were pictured as having the body of a man along with the horns, ears, tail, and legs of a goat. The equivalent term for plant life is *flora*, derived from Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers.

- Early Rome was ruled by the city fathers, who took the name **patrician** from the Latin *pater*, "father." The common people were called *plebeians*, from the Latin *plebius*, "of the common people." The patricians considered themselves more refined than the plebeians, and to this day *patrician* refers to a person with an aristocratic manner.