

Lesson 2

Word List

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

adjudicate
ə jōōd' i kāt

v. To hear and decide judicially; to judge.

Since her case was still being **adjudicated**, the defendant didn't want to speak to the press.

adjudicator n.

Anne is trained as an **adjudicator** in marital disputes.

centennial
sen ten' ē əl

n. A one-hundredth anniversary or its celebration.

The nation celebrated its **centennial** in 1876, one hundred years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

adj. Of or pertaining to a period of one hundred years.

A **centennial** fair celebrated the town's one-hundredth birthday.

countenance
koun' tə nəns

n. 1. A person's face; the expression on a person's face.

Luke's **countenance** was doleful when he heard the news that the class trip was cancelled.

2. Support or approval.

The measure to abolish bilingual education cannot pass without the party leaders' **countenance**.

v. To support or approve; to tolerate.

The school board will not **countenance** a shorter school day.

disgruntle
dis grunt' l

v. To make dissatisfied; to put in a bad mood.

The employees, who haven't been given a raise in over two years, are **disgruntled** with their wages and want an increase in pay.

equilibrium
ē kwi lib' rē əm

n. A state of balance.

The United States government is most effective when its executive, legislative, and judicial branches are all working in **equilibrium**.

expedite
ek' spə dīt

v. To speed up a process; to facilitate.

The company hired additional workers to **expedite** the delivery of holiday orders.

expeditious adj. With great speed; quick and efficient.

Because we were catering two parties back-to-back, we had to work in an **expeditious** manner.

gird
gərd

v. 1. To encircle, bind, or surround.

He **girded** his waist with a wide leather belt.

2. To get ready for action; to brace.

As 1941 drew to a close, America **girded** itself for a war of unremitting ferocity.

gratuitous
grə tōō' ət əs

adj. 1. Not called for; unnecessary.
The violence in that movie was **gratuitous** because it didn't add to the plot.
2. Without charge; free.
Did you think the skating lessons would be **gratuitous**, or did you expect to pay for them?

illusory
il lōō' sər ē

adj. Unreal or imagined; deceiving.
His chances of getting a raise were **illusory** since he had such a poor work record.

implacable
im plək' ə bəl

adj. Incapable of being placated, soothed, or significantly changed; relentless.
Despite Gina's apologies, Karen still felt hurt by her friend's betrayal and remained **implacable**.

luminary
lōō' mə ner ē

n. 1. A source of light, especially from the sky, such as the sun or moon.
The moon far outshines all other **luminaries** in the night sky.
2. A person who is well known for her or his achievements; a celebrity.
The Academy Awards presentations were attended by many Hollywood **luminaries**.

manifesto
man ə fes' tō

n. A public statement explaining the intentions, motives, or views of an individual or group.
In their 1848 Communist **Manifesto**, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels outlined their philosophies about class and economics.

mesmerize
mez' mər īz

v. To fascinate or hypnotize.
The agile, death-defying moves of the trapeze artist kept the audience **mesmerized** during her performance.

precedent
pres' ə dənt

n. An act or statement that may serve as an example or justification for a later one.
The successful revolt of the American colonies provided a **precedent** for the French Revolution.

spurious
spyōōr' ē əs

adj. Not genuine; false.
Spurious reports that Elvis Presley was alive kept appearing in the tabloids.

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. A **centennial** is a person who is celebrating a one-hundredth birthday.

2. An **implacable** enemy is one that can't be mollified.

3. People who are **disgruntled** feel they have something to complain about.

4. To **countenance** a suggestion is to show approval of it.

5. A **luminary** is someone who is well known.

6. To **mesmerize** someone is to have a distinct memory of that person.

7. **Equilibrium** is a state of unrest.

8. An **illusory** goal is one that cannot be attained.

9. A **gratuitous** service is one that is not paid for.

10. A **precedent** is something that is used as a model for subsequent actions.

11. To **adjudicate** is to make a decision concerning an issue.

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spurious

12. A **manifesto** is a list of items required for proper record keeping.

13. A **spurious** claim is one that is fraudulent.

14. To **gird** a tree is to put something around it.

15. To **expedite** a process is to help to advance it.

2B Using Words

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. **gratuitous**

- (a) The food provided at the church was _____ and available to all travelers.
- (b) Telling Kate she looked skinny was a _____ insult that hurt her deeply.
- (c) "I'm very _____ to you for your kind assistance," she said warmly.

2. **precedent**

- (a) We searched the law books trying to find a _____ for the judge's action.
- (b) Oysters on the half shell were the _____ for the main course.
- (c) Britain created a _____ when it elected its first female prime minister.

3. **countenance**

- (a) Why does he _____ such disrespectful behavior from his students?
- (b) He had a _____ that expressed both good humor and intelligence.
- (c) The _____ of votes cast showed an almost 90 percent turnout.

4. **gird**
- (a) Congress _____ itself for a tough battle with the president over tax cuts.
- (b) A metal band _____ the structure, giving it added strength.
- (c) We believe we were _____ through those trying times by our convictions.

5. **adjudicate**
- (a) Alida and Mike called upon the camp counselor to _____ the dispute between them.
- (b) The federal courts _____ cases concerning immigration to the United States.
- (c) Yvette felt that she had an _____ reason for refuting the case.

6. **mesmerize**
- (a) The winking light _____ me, and I could not turn my head away from it.
- (b) Antonio had _____ his entire speech and had no need to refer to his notes.
- (c) Even small babies are _____ by the flickering images on the television screen.

7. **luminary**
- (a) Laurence Olivier was a _____ of the stage for over five decades.
- (b) Some of the _____ that we see in the night sky are distant stars.
- (c) Zack had a _____ idea at the meeting last Friday.

8. **equilibrium**
- (a) The system is stable when all the forces acting on it are in _____.
- (b) Despite being pulled in various directions, she maintained her _____.
- (c) A finely balanced _____ is used to measure small quantities accurately.

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Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

1. DISGRUNTLED : COMPLAIN ::
 - (a) pleased : praise
 - (b) implacable : surrender
 - (c) illusory : pretend
 - (d) lost : return
2. IMPLACABLE : YIELD ::
 - (a) gratuitous : forgive
 - (b) talkative : chat
 - (c) unremitting : stop
 - (d) friendly : smile
3. MESMERIZE : BORE ::
 - (a) imbue : empty
 - (b) undermine : betray
 - (c) gird : brace
 - (d) instigate : provoke
4. COUNTENANCE : UNDERMINE ::
 - (a) respond : reply
 - (b) adjudicate : judge
 - (c) respect : praise
 - (d) expedite : delay
5. ASPERITY : SMOOTH ::
 - (a) color : blue
 - (b) taste : sweet
 - (c) chill : warm
 - (d) anger : resentful
6. GRATUITOUS : NECESSARY ::
 - (a) spurious : fake
 - (b) ancient : old
 - (c) doleful : happy
 - (d) unusual : peculiar
7. EXTROVERT : SHY ::
 - (a) buffoon : ridiculous
 - (b) genius : unintelligent
 - (c) athlete : fit
 - (d) introvert : timid
8. SPURIOUS : GENUINE ::
 - (a) unremitting : constant
 - (b) garish : flamboyant
 - (c) implacable : relentless
 - (d) rambunctious : placid
9. HIERARCHY : LEADER ::
 - (a) pyramid : apex
 - (b) earth : equator
 - (c) sphere : circle
 - (d) nation : flag
10. BUFFOON : SERIOUSNESS ::
 - (a) sprinter : speed
 - (b) invalid : health
 - (c) scientist : knowledge
 - (d) plant : sunshine

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. **centennial**

- (a) In 1996, Utah celebrated its 1896 admission to the Union.
- (b) The square root of 100 is 10.
- (c) One hundred Mexican centavos make up one Mexican peso.

2. **manifesto**

- (a) Holly was unable to come to school today because she's home with a cold.
- (b) The striking miners published their demands in a statement that outlined their fourteen concerns.
- (c) The title of the pamphlet was "The Reform Party's Ideology."

3. **expedite**

- (a) To make sure it got there on time, I delivered the package myself.
- (b) Light from the sun takes about eight minutes to reach the earth.
- (c) Lewis and Clark's party set off in 1803 to explore the West.

4. **countenance**

- (a) The final vote was 219 votes in support of the motion and 121 against it.
- (b) The sad face of a child peering from a window haunted Marlowe's dreams.
- (c) Congress allowed the president's veto of the bill to go unchallenged.

5. **spurious**

- (a) Scholars doubt the claim that George Washington never told a lie.
- (b) This letter signed by Abraham Lincoln is dated April 15, 1866, one year after he died.
- (c) Kassia probably never intended to keep her promise to host the meeting.

6. **illusory**

- (a) Although they were losing 54-11 at halftime, the team still thought it could win the game.
- (b) Her name was on the tip of my tongue, but I could not think of it.
- (c) Jimmy is foolish to think that he will win the lottery.

7. **disgruntled**

- (a) Passengers bumped from the flight demanded to speak to the airline's manager.
- (b) When Liza is under stress, her stomach invariably gets upset.
- (c) Al just rolled over and went back to sleep when his alarm clock went off.

8. **precedent**

- (a) John Quincy Adams was the father of historian Charles Francis Adams.
- (b) Remember the spelling rule that i comes before e except after c.
- (c) In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in the United States to receive a medical degree.

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9. **implacable**

- (a) Ever since their argument, they refuse to see each other.
- (b) The townspeople finally gave up their efforts to save the beach from development.
- (c) The Allies continued to wage war until Germany surrendered.

10. **mesmerized**

- (a) Oblivious to his surroundings, Hamlet stared at the ghost of his father.
- (b) The children climbed into bed and at once fell into a deep sleep.
- (c) We sat frozen in our chairs as the magician performed amazing tricks.



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

Gustave Eiffel's Tower

Guy de Maupassant, the famous French short story and novel writer, supposedly lunched every day at one of the restaurants in the Eiffel Tower. He maintained that he ate there because that was the only place in the French capital where he could eat without having to look at the famous Paris landmark. Although this story is most likely **spurious**, de Maupassant and many other **luminaries** of the art world were, in fact, **implacably** opposed to the tower from the start. When work on it began in 1887, a group of **disgruntled** artists, writers, musicians, and architects issued a **manifesto** calling the proposed tower "monstrous" and "useless." In a **gratuitous** slap at the United States, they declared that a structure that "even the United States would not **countenance** surely dishonors Paris."

The late nineteenth century was the age of monumental iron structures. The famed Brooklyn Bridge had been completed in 1883, and the French government wanted something equally impressive for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris, which celebrated the **centennial** of the French Revolution. Over one hundred proposals were submitted, and the **adjudicators** declared Gustave Eiffel's proposal the winner. His plan called for a thousand-foot iron tower that would be the tallest structure in the world; it retained this title until the 1,046-foot Chrysler Building in New York was built in 1930.

The World's Fair was to open in May 1889; Eiffel signed the contract on January 8, 1887. He had just over two years to complete the project, and he moved **expeditiously**—work on the tower's foundations was completed in five months! In order to achieve this feat, 40,000 cubic yards of earth had to be removed. Each of the tower's four feet were set in a 20-foot-thick base of concrete, limestone, and granite. Once the foundation was completed, the iron girders and other components, which

were made in workshops three miles from the site, began arriving daily. When these were riveted together, the four corner sections began rising, leaning inward at an angle of 54 degrees, until they reached a height of 180 feet. At this point, a 25-foot-wide iron "belt" was used to **gird** them into a single structure. A similar operation was carried out at 380 feet, and from this platform, the four corners converged to form a single spire.

There was no **precedent** for such a massive structure in Paris. Many Parisians were **mesmerized** by the sight of the great iron tower getting taller by the day. Others expressed misgivings, fearing that the tower would topple in a strong wind. But such fears proved **illusory**. Fierce weather had no impact on the structure. It could easily support elevators as well as the numerous people they would carry to the top. In installing elevators, Eiffel did not choose a single, vertical elevator, which would have been simple to install but which would have cluttered the graceful open arches at the base of the tower. Instead, Eiffel placed elevators at two of the four corners.

The Eiffel Tower was a well-managed and remarkable feat of engineering. It was completed within the time allotted and within its \$1.6 million budget. It is a huge structure, yet its curving shape is light and airy, giving it a sense of lift. At the same time, the tower appears to be firmly rooted in the earth. These two opposing elements work together in complete **equilibrium** to make France's great national monument a triumph of design.

► 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. Why might the story about de Maupassant be considered **spurious**?

2. How did Maupassant and some other **luminaries** feel about the Eiffel Tower?

3. Who issued a **manifesto** that claimed that the Eiffel Tower is "useless"?

4. What was the **gratuitous** insult made to the United States in the manifesto?

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5. What did the 1889 World's Fair in Paris celebrate?

6. Who declared Gustave Eiffel the winner of the contest to create a monument for the 1889 World's Fair?

7. Did Paris have any structures as large as the Eiffel Tower?

8. How did some Parisians react to the tower?

9. How were the fears of the tower's toppling shown to be **illusory**?

10. Why is the Eiffel Tower called a "triumph of design" in the passage?

11. Describe Gustave Eiffel's possible **countenance** after he heard that his proposal was declared the winner.

12. Why were some people **disgruntled** about the tower?
