

Lesson 8

biodegradable *by•oh•dih•GRAY•duh•bul*
ADJECTIVE readily broken down or rotted, especially by the action of bacteria [Paper is *biodegradable*, but most plastic is not.]

clarity *KLAIR•uh•tee* NOUN
1. clearness in quality or appearance [The *clarity* of glass is improved when it is cleaned.]
2. clearness in expression or understanding [The rule was stated with *clarity*.]

confine *kun•FINE* VERB
1. to keep or hold within limits; to restrict [Confine your purchases to things on the list.]
2. to keep physically restricted; to shut up [We built a fence to *confine* our dog to the yard.]

ecstasy *EK•stuh•see* NOUN
very great happiness [Winning the contest filled me with *ecstasy*.]

exhale *EX•hale* VERB
1. to breathe out [When you *exhale* on a cold day, you can see your breath.]
2. to give off, as air, smoke, gas, etc. [Boiling pots of water *exhale* steam.]

grave *GRAVE* ADJECTIVE
1. important; worthy of being deeply considered [The city council dealt with many *grave* issues, such as the need for stop lights.]
2. dangerous; threatening [His illness is *grave*, and I'm very worried.]
3. serious; thoughtful [The judge spoke to the jury in a *grave* tone.]

A cemetery worker who never smiles is a grave digger.



inflammation *in•fluh•MAY•shun* NOUN
a hot, red, sore swelling of part of the body [He was troubled by *inflammation* in his knees.]

lurk *LURK* VERB
to stay hidden, usually ready to attack or spring out suddenly [At night, many children imagine that monsters *lurk* in their bedroom closet.]

monotonous *muh•NOT•uh•nus* ADJECTIVE
having little or no change; boring because of sameness [After a few days, summer vacation became *monotonous*.]

primitive *PRIM•uh•tuv* ADJECTIVE
1. of or belonging to earliest times [We are studying *primitive* humans and how they lived.]
2. very simple; like that of earliest times [Clinics in poor nations may be able to provide only *primitive* treatment.]

reel *REEL* VERB
1. to walk or move unsteadily; to stagger or sway, as from dizziness [Twirling around can make you *reel*.]
2. to spin around and around; to whirl [When you are dizzy, the room seems to *reel*.]

remnant *REM•nunt* NOUN
that which remains or is left over [Mom made pot holders from a *remnant* of cloth.]

surpass *sur•PAS* VERB
to do better; be greater than; or go beyond [This season's crop of apples should easily *surpass* last year's.]

trial *TRY•ul*
NOUN 1. the act of trying or testing [Despite a few problems, the new plane did extremely well in its first *trial*.]
NOUN 2. something that causes hardship or suffering [The illness was a great *trial*.]
ADJECTIVE of or for a trial or test [I received a *trial* sample.]

unruly *un•ROO•lee* ADJECTIVE
hard to control; disobedient [I dislike babysitting for *unruly* children.]

Exercise A: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question.

1. What describes the people who first invented the wheel and learned to use fire? _____
2. What does rain do to kids on stormy days and illness do to them even on sunny days? _____
3. What do boxers often do as they are about to fall to the mat after being punched? _____
4. What kind of horses buck off their riders and refuse to go into their stalls? _____
5. What does the winner of a race do to the other runners? _____
6. What do you have to do after holding your breath for a while? _____
7. What describes carrots and fish but not rocks or cans? _____
8. What is a characteristic of diamonds but not of gold? _____



My dog Turk likes to lurk in the dark and then bark!

Exercise B: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 9. Unruly hair is easy to comb, brush, and style. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 10. An experiment is a kind of trial | TRUE | FALSE |
| 11. People exhale when they blow out candles. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 12. Biodegradable garbage is bad for the environment. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 13. One sign of good health is inflammation | TRUE | FALSE |
| 14. Getting hit on the head might make you reel | TRUE | FALSE |

Exercise C: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that could be use in place of each underlined word or phrase. This exercise continues on the next page.

15. Many zoos cage animals in small spaces; others give them more room. _____
16. Because the work was always the same, I couldn't make myself keep doing it. _____



ANN:
My report on biodegradable materials got an A. What about yours?

DAN:
Mine was D-gradable.



leth

Quick LIST

biodegradable ADJ.
clarity N.
confine V.

ecstasy N.
exhale V.
grave ADJ.
inflammation N.

lurk V.
monotonous ADJ.
primitive ADJ.
reel V.

remnant N.
surpass V.
trial N., ADJ.
unruly ADJ.



Exercise F: Fill-in

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence. Use each word only once.

36. A panther may _____ in the jungle, waiting for prey.
37. I enjoy learning about dinosaurs and other _____ forms of life.
38. The candidates were asked to _____ their speeches to ten minutes apiece.
39. I reacted with _____ to my parents' plan to spend the day at an amusement park.
40. A beautiful, old town hall is the only _____ of the town's former glory.
41. The factory smokestacks _____ so much smoke that the entire sky is blackened.
42. Telephones today allow one to hear with perfect _____ what someone a thousand miles away is saying.
43. Delivering newspapers can be a _____ job because you go to the same places every day.
44. The world seemed to _____ when I got to my feet after rolling down the hill.
45. A flock of frightened sheep can be quite _____, and a trained sheep dog is a big help in controlling them.
46. The problem is _____; no one knows if it can be solved, and everyone fears the worst.
47. The carnival was so successful that the profit will _____ last year's by several thousand dollars.
48. My parents buy _____ detergent because, unlike ordinary soap, it breaks down and doesn't harm the environment.
49. Losing their home in a tornado was a _____ for my aunt and uncle, but their lives are back to normal now.
50. The _____ in my grandfather's hands has become so bad that he has had to give up playing golf and baking bread.

Mrs. Beal slipped on a peel and began to reel. How does she feel? She hurt her heel. "It's no big deal," said Mrs. Beal.

DAD:
Turn down the sound! It's making my head spin! What is that stuff anyway?

DAUGHTER:
Rock-and-reel.

