

# Lesson 18

## Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

**aperture**

ap' ə chər

*n.* An opening or hole.

Tony could see an eye peering at him through a small **aperture** in the door.

**cache**

kash

*n.* 1. A hiding or storage place, especially for food or valuables.

A hollowed-out book provided a **cache** for the family's jewels.

2. Anything hidden or stored in such a place.

I found my sister's **cache** of marbles in the back of the closet.

**combustible**

kəm bus' ti bəl

*adj.* Capable of catching fire or burning.

Don't store **combustible** rags near the furnace.

**delegate**

del' ə gət

*n.* A person appointed to act on behalf of others; a representative.

**Delegates** from each section of the state attended the meeting on water conservation in the capital.

*v.* (del' ə gāt) To assign or entrust to another.

Mr. Reese **delegated** to Karen and me the task of lining up the music for our school dance.

**inclement**

in klem' ə nt

*adj.* 1. Stormy.

We had such **inclement** weather on the scheduled day of our field trip to the zoo that we postponed it to the following week.

2. Harsh; not merciful.

The warden's decision to shackle the prisoners was only one of his many **inclement** actions.

**indelible**

in del' ə bəl

*adj.* Not able to be erased; permanent.

The beauty of Venice made an **indelible** impression on the visitors.

**malady**

mal' ə də

*n.* A sickness or unhealthy condition.

Malaria is a **malady** prevalent in tropical areas.

**memoir**

mem' wär

*n.* An account based on the author's personal experiences.

The Civil War anthology contains a moving **memoir** by a young Union cavalry officer.

**paramount**

par' ə maunt

*adj.* Most important; chief.

It is **paramount** that my mother receive this message before she leaves the house at 5:00 P.M.

**rectify**

rek' tə fī

*v.* To correct or adjust.

The hospital **rectified** the mistake in billing by sending Uncle Guy a check for the amount he had overpaid.

**requisite**

rek' wə zit

*adj.* Required; necessary.

When Aunt Mercedes completes the **requisite** two-year course, she plans to become a travel agent.

*n.* Something that is required or necessary.

Our Italian teacher always insisted that a sharp pencil and a sharp mind were the two **requisites** for taking a test.

**squeamish**  
skwēm' ish

*adj.* Easily made to feel upset or sick to the stomach.  
There is no reason to feel **squeamish** about giving blood.

**tract**  
trakt

*n.* 1. An area of land or water.  
The students developed a **tract** of land in the center of the city for a vegetable garden.  
2. A system of organs in the body that performs some function together.  
The esophagus and stomach are part of the digestive **tract**.  
3. A pamphlet, often expressing religious or political ideas, that seeks to persuade.  
Volunteers handed out **tracts** on legal reform.

**tribulation**  
trib yōō lā' shān

*n.* Great trouble or suffering.  
The daily threat of injury or death because of buried land mines is only one of the **tribulations** the Cambodian people live with.

**vignette**  
vin yet'

*n.* A short sketch that provides a clear picture.  
The movie begins with a series of **vignettes** about life in Los Angeles.

## 18A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 18. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. (a) is one with a weak stomach.<br>(b) is one who rules through guile. | (c) A paramount leader<br>(d) A squeamish leader         |
| 2. (a) A cache is<br>(b) a small opening.                                 | (c) an area of land.<br>(d) A tract is                   |
| 3. (a) A memoir is<br>(b) A malady is                                     | (c) a failed attempt.<br>(d) a sickness.                 |
| 4. (a) If something is combustible,<br>(b) it is excessively harsh.       | (c) it is ineffectual.<br>(d) If something is inclement, |
| 5. (a) things that are unnecessary.<br>(b) things that cause suffering.   | (c) Tribulations are<br>(d) Vignettes are                |
| 6. (a) If something is paramount,<br>(b) If something is indelible,       | (c) it is soon forgotten.<br>(d) it is most important.   |

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. (a) A vignette is                 | (c) an opening.                      |
| (b) An aperture is                   | (d) a source of trouble.             |
|                                      |                                      |
| 8. (a) A cache is                    | (c) a religious pamphlet.            |
| (b) something hidden away.           | (d) A memoir is                      |
|                                      |                                      |
| 9. (a) To rectify a piece of work is | (c) to draw attention to it.         |
| (b) To delegate a piece of work is   | (d) to assign it to someone.         |
|                                      |                                      |
| 10. (a) A requisite item             | (c) is one that cannot be forgotten. |
| (b) A combustible item               | (d) is one that is needed.           |

## 18B Just the Right Word

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 18.

1. Mark Twain's writings contain numerous **short sketches that give a clear picture of** rural America.
2. Please **make the necessary corrections to** these figures and return them to me.
3. The French **people representing their country** were among the dignitaries who left early.
4. Whatever had been in the **secret hiding place** was gone when we opened it.
5. The kidneys are part of the urinary **system of the body**.
6. I was not happy when I discovered that the ink stain on my new pants was **impossible to remove**.
7. These humorous **personal accounts** of life in the White House were written by various employees of the president and his wife.
8. Sleeping bags and warm clothing are among the **things that are required** for a camping trip.
9. Oily rags are **quick to catch on fire and burn**, so dispose of them carefully.
10. The March weather was so **stormy and unsettled** that we took a bus to the museum instead of walking.

aperture  
cache  
combustible  
delegate  
inclement  
indelible  
malady  
memoir  
paramount  
rectify  
requisite  
squeamish  
tract  
tribulation  
vignette

## 18C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below.  
Question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following describes a **tract**?  
(a) It can be read. (c) It can be diseased.  
(b) It can be walked over. (d) It can be concise.
2. Which of the following is a **requisite** for survival?  
(a) food (c) shelter  
(b) entertainment (d) water
3. Which of the following is a sign of **inclement** weather?  
(a) dark clouds (c) fair skies  
(b) change in temperature (d) gentle breezes
4. Which of the following is **combustible**?  
(a) gasoline (c) paper  
(b) steel (d) wood
5. About which of the following might you write a **memoir**?  
(a) slavery (c) your schooldays  
(b) life in ancient Rome (d) the outer planets
6. In which of the following might there be a **vignette**?  
(a) a movie (c) an agenda  
(b) a novel (d) an anthology
7. Which of the following might be in a **cache**?  
(a) fuel (c) food  
(b) money (d) grimaces
8. Which of the following would be **paramount** during a hurricane?  
(a) finding shelter (c) turning off the electricity  
(b) drinking lots of liquids (d) getting exercise

# 18D Word Study

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

1. balmy	paramount	temporary	inclement	S	A
2. delegate	correct	divert	rectify	S	A
3. bequest	tract	pamphlet	cache	S	A
4. requisite	ordinary	necessary	squeamish	S	A
5. memoir	malady	ailment	epoch	S	A
6. paramount	realistic	indelible	fleeting	S	A
7. opening	cache	aperture	pittance	S	A

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.

## 8. ANNOYANCE : TRIBULATION ::

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) order : anarchy   | (c) item : agenda     |
| (b) scolding : tirade | (d) agility : stamina |

## 9. DELEGATE : RESPONSIBILITY ::

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) pilfer : theft  | (c) smell : nose          |
| (b) immerse : water | (d) confiscate : property |

## 10. SQUEAMISH : FORTITUDE ::

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) irascible : patience | (c) enigmatic : mystery |
| (b) pungent : smell      | (d) prudent : prudence  |

aperture

cache

combustible

delegate

inclement

indelible

malady

memoir

paramount

rectify

requisite

squeamish

tract

tribulation

vignette

## 18E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows.

## Prairie Women

One day in 1975, Joanna Stratton was exploring the attic of her grandmother's house in Topeka, Kansas, when she came across a large **cache** of yellowing documents stored in boxes. They turned out to be handwritten **memoirs** describing life on the Kansas frontier from the 1850s to the 1890s. They had been collected by Stratton's great-grandmother, Lilla Day Monroe. She herself had experienced the joys and **tribulations** of frontier life when her family had moved from Indiana to Kansas in 1884, as the frontier period was drawing to a close. Her family settled in Wakeeney, on a treeless **tract** in the western part of the state. Monroe married and became an attorney; later, with her family, she moved to Topeka, where she practiced law and campaigned tirelessly for women's rights.

The hardships patiently borne by the Kansas pioneers remained fixed **indelibly** in her memory. By the early 1920s, Monroe became concerned that the vital role that women had played would soon be forgotten since no written record of their experiences existed. She decided to **rectify** that by collecting personal, written passages of Kansas women who still remembered those days. As word of her project spread throughout the state, more and more women responded until she had collected eight hundred first-hand accounts, filled with vivid **vignettes** of pioneer life on the Kansas frontier.

It was evident from these recollections that shelter was the **paramount** concern of new arrivals. For a family settling in the treeless western part of the state, a plow was the chief **requisite**. Drawn by oxen, horses, or humans, it prepared the land for farming and provided the only building material available—sods. These were solid blocks of earth cut from strips of soil that were used for the walls and roofs of the one-room frontier homes. Emma Brown of Mitchell County recalled life with her children in a sod house during a period of **inclement** weather when her husband was away on a cattle drive. The dirt roof leaked, soaking everything inside. "How happy we were to have the sun shine out again," she wrote. She tells how she and the children carried everything outside to dry. "But, alas," her account goes on, "the next morning the rain was pouring down again." It continued for another week.

Emma Louisa Smith of South Sappa Creek pointed out another problem caused by the lack of timber. "There was not a tree or even a bush in sight to furnish us with fuel." Fortunately, the early settlers discovered an unusual source—the dried dung of cattle and buffalo was both **combustible** and plentiful. The task of collecting it was one of the many that were **delegated** to the children. Emma Smith concluded that, "the sod house and cow chips were two great factors in making possible the settlement of this country at so early a date."

Despite the need for every pair of hands to do a share of the work, the children's schooling was not neglected. Those who could read and write taught their children at home. Later, when local settlers organized schools, Emma Handy conducted classes at Oak Creek in a dirt-floored schoolhouse built of sods. She wrote, "It had neither blackboard, teacher's desk, nor chairs. The seats were small logs split and supported by pegs." Two small **apertures** cut into one of the walls provided the only source of light. The dirt floor served as a chalkboard, with a long, pointed stick used to write letters and numbers.

Life on the frontier was not for the **squeamish**. There were no doctors, nurses, or hospitals. When women gave birth, usually no one but a neighbor was in attendance. With medical supplies difficult to obtain, **maladies** such as malaria had to run their course. Injuries were frequent, so residents in Kearny county were fortunate that a woman named Amy Loucks could act as surgeon when necessary. According to the account provided by her son, she closed wounds with fiddle string and a common needle. Once "with a razor and her embroidery scissors, she removed three fingers from the crushed hand of a railroad brakeman."

Lilla Day Monroe died in 1929 before she had completed her project. The manuscripts lay undisturbed in the attic of the family home for many years until Joanna Stratton came upon them. She had the pleasure of editing the writings and of bringing her great-grandmother's work to completion when, in 1981, *Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier* was published.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. How does the passage indicate that Monroe remembered her early life?

2. Why would Stratton's book make interesting reading?

3. What were the minimum requirements for teaching lessons in school?

4. Why was the plow of **paramount** importance to settlers on the prairie?

5. Why do you think it was necessary to dry the cow and buffalo dung?

6. How do you know that the old papers Stratton found were a surprise to her?

7. What details in the passage suggest that the sod schoolhouses were rather dark?

8. How do you know that Amy Loucks was not **squeamish**?

9. What was one of the **tribulations** that the occupants of sod houses experienced?

10. How were most **maladies** treated by pioneer women?

11. How did Stratton **rectify** Monroe's failure to publish the book?

12. What is the meaning of **inclement** as it is used in the passage?

13. What were the sources for the information that appeared in Stratton's book?

14. Why do you think Stratton did not **delegate** the work of editing Monroe's papers?

15. What is the meaning of **tract** as it is used in the passage?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Latin *rectus* means "straight" or "right" and forms the root of *rectangle*, a shape made of four straight lines with four right angles. The Latin *ficere* means "to make" and forms the root of *factory*, a place where things are made. The two Latin roots combine to make **rectify**. When we rectify something, we *make it right*.

The French for "vine" is *vigne* and forms the root of the word **vignette**. The story of how these two

terms came to be connected is an interesting one. It was once a common practice to place a decorative border on prints or the pages of books. The curling forms of grape vines and leaves along with clusters of grapes were often used for this purpose. These designs made little pictures in themselves. *Vignette*, therefore, came to be applied to any brief, descriptive sketch or a word picture.