Word List

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

active
adj. 1. Taking part; working.
Luis has been an active member of the chess club for two years.
2. Lively; quick; busy.
Even though she is over ninety, Dr. O’Brien still has a very active mind.
3. Moving a lot; moving quickly.
Since I’ve been more physically active, I can run around the track more easily.

astound
v. To surprise; to amaze.
The United States astounded the world in 1969 by landing people on the moon.

astounding
adj. Very surprising.
The report of flying saucers landing on the White House lawn would be astounding if it were true.

attend
v. 1. To go to or be present at.
If you are planning to attend the lunchroom committee meeting, please let Mr. Minh know.
2. To pay attention to.
The judge asked the jury to attend carefully to what she was going to say.

cherish
v. 1. To cling to an idea or feeling.
Ramona cherished the hope that her father would return soon.
2. To take good care of; to love.
I cherish the gold watch my grandfather gave me.

contract
v. 1. To make an agreement that has the force of law.
We contracted with carpenters to repair the stairs.
2. To get; to come to have.
When I contracted chicken pox, Dr. Robey told me I had to stay away from other people.
3. To make or become smaller.
By 1828, Cherokee lands had contracted to one-tenth the size they had been a hundred years earlier.

n. (kàn’ trakt) An agreement that has the force of law.
Tom has just signed a contract with a publisher for his first book on the copper miners.
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<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>eager</td>
<td><strong>adj.</strong> Wanting very much. We were <em>eager</em> to take part in the science project.</td>
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<td><strong>eagerly</strong> <em>adv.</em> With a great deal of enthusiasm, wanting. We <em>eagerly</em> awaited the arrival of our cousins, whom we hadn't seen in several months.</td>
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<td>expose</td>
<td><strong>v.</strong> 1. To make known. In her weekly newspaper column, Molly Ivins <em>exposed</em> the plan to cut health benefits.</td>
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<td>2. To open to view. Cleaning the painting <em>exposed</em> the original colors.</td>
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<td>3. To leave unprotected. Since I had no place to keep my bike, I had to leave it outside, <em>exposed</em> to the weather.</td>
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<td>grace</td>
<td><strong>n.</strong> 1. Beauty of form or movement. Margot Fonteyn danced with such <em>grace</em> that she was hailed as one of the world's greatest ballerinas.</td>
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<td>2. A short prayer said before a meal. They always say <em>grace</em> in her family.</td>
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<td>3. An extra period to do or pay something. The painters had three days' <em>grace</em> to finish the house.</td>
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<td><strong>graceful</strong> <em>adj.</em> Having beauty of movement. With a <em>graceful</em> leap, the cat landed on my lap.</td>
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<td>impose</td>
<td><strong>v.</strong> 1. To force someone to accept or put up with. The new coach <em>imposed</em> strict rules about arriving late or leaving practice early.</td>
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<td>2. To take unfair advantage of. I try not to <em>impose</em> on my mother's good nature.</td>
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<td>modest</td>
<td><strong>adj.</strong> 1. Not thinking too highly of oneself. Nadia was too <em>modest</em> to accept all the credit for her part in producing the play.</td>
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<td>2. Simple; not fancy or extreme. The Wallmans lived in the same <em>modest</em> apartment all their lives.</td>
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<td><strong>modesty</strong> <em>n.</em> The quality of being modest. My sense of <em>modesty</em> keeps me from taking too much credit for the project's success.</td>
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<td>parallel</td>
<td><strong>adj.</strong> Lying in the same direction and always the same distance apart. The two edges of a ruler are <em>parallel</em>.</td>
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paralyze  
**par’ a liz**  
v. 1. To stop all movement or feeling in.  
As the huge wave approached, fear paralyzed people walking at the water’s edge and they stood there motionless.  
2. To make helpless or powerless.  
The snowstorm paralyzed Washington, D.C., for five days.  

**paralysis** (pa ra’ la sas)  
*n.* Condition of being paralyzed.  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a wheelchair because of the paralysis of his legs.

pessimist  
**pe’ sa mist**  
*n.* A person who expects things to turn out badly.  
A pessimist carries an umbrella even though the forecast is for fine weather.  

**pessimistic**  
*adj.* Not having hope, joy, or confidence; gloomy.  
After losing her librarian’s job, Ms. Merkelson was pessimistic about finding another library position in the same town.

recite  
**ri sit’**  
v. To say aloud before an audience, usually from memory.  
Rozzie recited her favorite Emily Dickinson poem to the class.

**recital**  
*n.* A program of music or dance.  
I felt very nervous before my ballet recital.

respond  
**ri spænd’**  
v. To answer.  
When you want to respond to a question, please raise your hand.  

**response**  
*n.* Something said or done in reply.  
Henry took a few moments to think before giving his response to Mr. Bartlett’s question.

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4A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 4. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) to love that person. (b) To cherish someone is  
   (c) To expose someone is  
   (d) to fear that person.
2. (a) A response is
   (b) an increase in size.
   (c) Paralysis is
   (d) an answer.

3. (a) that causes shock and surprise.
   (b) An astounding reply is one
   (c) An eager reply is one
   (d) that is not spoken.

4. (a) To contract is
   (b) To attend is
   (c) to make an agreement.
   (d) to be afraid.

5. (a) are not hidden from view.
   (b) Exposed beams
   (c) Parallel beams
   (d) meet at a corner.

6. (a) To attend a speech is
   (b) To recite a speech is
   (c) to make changes in it.
   (d) to be present at it.

7. (a) affects an interest in something.
   (b) An eager person
   (c) A pessimistic person
   (d) is quick to take part in something.

8. (a) Graceful lines are
   (b) Parallel lines are
   (c) the same distance apart.
   (d) curving away from each other.
9. (a) a loss of the ability to move. (c) a belief that things will turn out badly.
   (b) Modesty is (d) Paralysis is

10. (a) A recital is (c) A pessimist is
    (b) a written agreement. (d) one who is gloomy.

11. (a) Grace is (c) beauty of movement.
    (b) Modesty is (d) failing to do what is right.

4B 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 4.

1. Where the paint has peeled off the house, the wood will be left unprotected and unable to stand up to scorching summer heat and severe winter cold.

2. The magician promised that his next trick would create great amazement in us.

3. Eleanor Roosevelt’s lack of feelings of self-importance impressed all who knew her.

4. Heavy snow stopped the movement of traffic in Denver for two days.

5. The librarian gave me one week’s extra time to pay the fine.

6. Only about half of the members of the gardening club are taking part in what is going on.
7. Unfortunately, my roommate is always expecting things to turn out badly, so he's not a very cheerful person to live with.

8. I was afraid I was forcing myself on them when I stayed an extra week at the Mendelssohns'.

9. The pupil of the eye becomes smaller in bright light.

10. Did you give your attention to your homework?

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4C Applying Meanings

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

1. Which of the following could a person attend?
   (a) a benefit
   (b) a concert
   (c) a meeting
   (d) a remark

2. Which of the following can be contracted?
   (a) an illness
   (b) the pupils of the eyes
   (c) muscles
   (d) a habit

3. Which of the following requires a person to be active?
   (a) playing hockey
   (b) washing windows
   (c) walking the dog
   (d) watching television

4. Which of the following can be paralyzed?
   (a) a person's lower limbs
   (b) a person's body
   (c) a person's hair
   (d) a person's clothes

5. Which of the following might a modest person say?
   (a) “I had very little to do with it.”
   (b) “Please don’t bother to thank me.”
   (c) “You deserve all the credit.”
   (d) “I am the greatest!”
6. Which of the following might a pessimistic person say?
   (a) “Everything will be all right.” (c) “We’re bound to lose.”
   (b) “It’s no use trying.” (d) “Next time we’ll try harder.”

7. Which of the following are parallel?
   (a) the opposite sides of a square (c) the letters A, E, and O
   (b) the three sides of a triangle (d) the numbers 1, 2, and 3

8. Which of the following would you expect to be graceful?
   (a) a beginning skier (c) a Broadway dancer
   (b) an Olympic diver (d) an Olympic skater

Word Study

Circle the two synonyms in each group of words.

1. astound  amaze benefit lack
   remember observe forget notice
   mammoth huge mature eager
   severe eager willing drowsy
   expose cherish love prepare

Circle the two antonyms in each group of words.

6. pessimistic remarkable sufficient hopeful
   drowsy modest complete active
   boastful destructive famished modest
   recite expose impose hide
   approach migrate enlarge reduce
One Step at a Time

Sucheng Chan was an active child. She loved to run outside and play with the other children in the village in China where she was born. But in 1943, when she was four years old, she contracted a childhood disease called polio. Polio can make people very sick and often causes paralysis. The muscles in Sucheng Chan’s legs slowly wasted away, and she could no longer run or even walk. The doctors were pessimistic about her chances of living more than a year or two. They did not know what a determined person Sucheng Chan was.

For three years, Sucheng Chang lay helplessly in bed. But one day she surprised her mother. Sucheng Chan asked her mother to set up some chairs in two parallel lines, their backs facing. She then forced herself out of bed. Slowly, she made her way between the chairs, using their backs as support. She did this time after time. Her body ached from her many falls.

At that time, China was at war with Japan. Sucheng Chan’s father was serving in the army, unable to see his family. He cherished his daughter, though. It saddened him that he could not give her the comfort and support she needed. When the war ended, he finally returned home. Imagine how astounded he was to see Sucheng Chan walk up to him and welcome him! Her movements were jerky and not at all graceful. But to her father, there had never been such a beautiful sight.

Sucheng Chan had always been a bright child. She was eager to go to school. But in those days in China, education was not free, and her parents had only a modest income. Sucheng Chan was eight years old before they had saved enough money for her to attend the American school in Shanghai. There she learned to speak English. She also began a lifelong study of Asian history.

In 1948, at the end of Sucheng Chan’s first year in school, China’s government became communist. The new government imposed strict rules forbidding contact with foreigners. One result was that the American school was closed. Sucheng Chan and her parents grew increasingly unhappy. They decided to leave China and settle in Malaysia.
Sucheng Chan spent her teenage years at a Malaysian high school. This was the happiest time of her life. She did very well in school and took piano lessons. Sometimes she gave recitals for visitors. Once, while walking across the stage, her legs gave way and she fell. She heard a voice say, “Ayah! A baikah (cripple) should not expose herself like that.” Sucheng Chan’s response was to struggle to her feet, walk to the piano, and sit down. She played so beautifully that the audience was moved to tears.

After graduating from high school, Sucheng Chan went on to win scholarships to the University of Hawaii. She later became a professor of history and director of Asian American studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She led a full and active life. Doctors told her that she might need a wheelchair by the time she was forty; polio’s lasting effects can cause more damage to muscles. The doctors were right. But, Sucheng Chan did not let the wheelchair stop her. “I use it only when I am not in a hurry,” she said.

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. Why didn’t Sucheng Chan go to school until she was eight?

2. Why did it become impossible for Sucheng Chan to run outside and play?

3. Did her doctors expect Sucheng Chan to get better?

4. What usually happens to people who contract polio?
5. What is the meaning of **active** as it is used in the passage?


6. How does the passage suggest that her father often thought of Sucheng Chan while he was away?


7. Why was Sucheng Chan’s father **astounded** when he saw his daughter after the war?


8. Why wasn’t Sucheng Chan **graceful**?


9. How did Sucheng Chan feel about going to school?


10. What is the meaning of **attend** as it is used in the passage?


11. Why don’t **parallel** lines ever meet?


12. Why do you think China **imposed** rules against contact with foreigners?


13. How can you tell that Sucheng Chan played the piano well?
14. What did the person who remarked that Sucheng Chan “should not expose herself like that” expect her to do?

15. What might Sucheng Chan’s response have been if she were not such a determined person?

**FUN & FASCINATING FACTS**

- Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning. The antonym of *contract* in its meaning of “to make or become smaller” is *expand*. Metals contract as they get colder; they expand as they get warmer.

- *Pessimist* and *optimist* are another pair of antonyms. An *optimist* has a cheerful outlook on life and expects things to go well. *Pessimist* is formed from the Latin word *pessimus*, which means “worst.” *Optimist* is formed from the Latin word *optimus*, which means “best.” There is a saying that a pessimist is a person who looks upon the glass as being half-empty; an optimist is a person who looks upon it as being half-full.
Crossword Puzzle  Solve the crossword puzzle by studying the clues and filling in the answer boxes. Clues followed by a number are definitions of vocabulary words in lessons 1 through 4. The number gives the lesson from which the answer to the clue is taken.

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Clues Across
1. Having no missing parts (1)
5. To rot (2)
8. To be present at (4)
10. To speak (1)
12. The Atlantic ______
13. To make less painful (1)
14. One, ______, three
16. To make larger or better (1)
18. To make ready (3)
20. A group of trees growing together (2)
23. A stomach ______
26. To burn slightly (2)
29. Lively; quick; busy (4)
30. To cause fear, worry, or surprise (1)
31. To greet or welcome (1)
32. A hole or tunnel dug by an animal (3)
33. Very high (2)
34. Very strict or harsh (3)

Clues Down
2. Fully grown (2)
3. Wanting very much to do or get (4)
4. To dare to do, to go, or to say (3)
6. To go beyond something (2)
7. The ______ is a fort in San Antonio.
9. To draw in an aimless kind of way
11. Something said or expressed (1)
15. To come closer (3)
17. Loss of ability to do or feel (4)
19. Something laid by a bird
21. A paper allowing one to do something (2)
22. One who loves and supports his country (1)
24. An area’s average weather conditions (2)
25. To lie in a sheltered, partly hidden place (3)
27. A row of figures running down a page (2)
28. Red and blue, for example