### Word List

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>alter</strong></td>
<td>v. To change in some way; to make or become different.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Let's <em>alter</em> our uniforms so they will fit better.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>alteration</strong> n. A change.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please don't make any <em>alterations</em> in my newspaper column.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>confuse</strong></td>
<td>v. 1. To make or become unclear or mixed up in the mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That math problem totally <em>confused</em> me.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To mistake one person or thing for another.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I always <em>confuse</em> Sally with her twin sister Samantha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>confusing</strong> adj. Hard to follow or understand; unclear.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The play was <em>confusing</em> at first, but I began to understand it in the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>second act.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>confusion</strong> n. A state of disorder.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>After the playoff game, the dressing room was total <em>confusion</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>distribute</strong></td>
<td>v. 1. To give out; to divide among several or many.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ahmed <em>distributed</em> programs before the concert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To be spread over.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small parks are <em>distributed</em> throughout London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>eject</strong></td>
<td>v. To force or throw out.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>When the seventh graders refused to listen, the coach <em>ejected</em> them from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the team meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>embrace</strong></td>
<td>v. 1. To hold closely in one's arms; to hug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My parents <em>embraced</em> me when I got off the plane.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To take up seriously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We <em>embraced</em> the idea of smaller classes, but lacked the teachers to carry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>n.</strong> A hug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the end of the movie, the hero and the heroine were locked in an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>embrace</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|equip| v. To provide with what is needed. All new cars now come **equipped** with airbags.  
**equipment** n. Things that are needed for some activity. Sarah bought all her camping equipment at yard sales.|
|---|---|
|flexible| *adj.* 1. Able to bend easily. Dancers and gymnasts have very **flexible** bodies.  
2. Able to adjust to new or different situations. Antonio is so **flexible** he can get along with anyone.|
|instant| *n.* A moment; a very short period of time. It took Luis only an **instant** to calculate the amount of paint we would need.  
*adj.* Happening or done at once; quick. He gave an **instant** “yes” to her offer.|
|keen| *adj.* 1. Having a sharp edge. The **keen** blade of the knife sliced through the thick rope with ease.  
2. Showing a strong interest; eager. Marta signed up for lessons because she was **keen** to learn to play the guitar.  
3. Having sharp senses; quick to understand. With her **keen** mind, she was able to master physics with ease.|
|limp| *v.* To walk lamely or in an uneven way. I **limped** for two weeks after I fell on the ice.  
*n.* An uneven or lopsided walk. She walked very fast, in spite of her **limp**.  
*adj.* Not stiff or firm. His handshake was as **limp** as a wet rag.|
|scurry| *v.* To move quickly, with rapid little steps. The chipmunk **scurried** up the tree as we approached.|
|seize| *v.* 1. To grasp suddenly; to grab hold of. He **seized** my hand and begged me not to go.  
2. To take by force of the law. The government can **seize** many of the things you own if you do not pay your taxes.
| shallow  | adj. 1. Not deep.  
We went wading in a shallow stream.  
2. With little seriousness or deep thought.  
He tried to sound intelligent, but his arguments were really quite shallow. |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| surround | v. To enclose on all sides.  
The prison was surrounded by a high fence.  
**surroundings**  n. pl. The things or conditions around a person or place.  
The hotel's peaceful surroundings made it a perfect place to relax. |
| victim   | n. One who is hurt, killed, or suffers.  
The scoundrel tried to deny that he had cheated his victims of their life savings. |

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### 7A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 7. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) Surroundings are  
(b) Alterations are  
(c) needed items for some activity.  
(d) the conditions around one.  

2. (a) To eject a group is to  
(b) provide it with what is needed.  
(c) To equip a group is to  
(d) allow it to take part.  

3. (a) throw them out.  
(b) To seize papers is to  
(c) take them by force.  
(d) To distribute papers is to
4. (a) To be flexible is to be (b) To be keen is to be (c) unwilling to change your mind. (d) agreeable to any sudden change of plan.

5. (a) Alteration is (b) unwillingness to change. (c) a state of being mixed up. (d) Confusion is

6. (a) Victims are (b) persons who are hurt. (c) persons who avoid injury. (d) Embraces are

7. (a) A flexible person (b) is one who is eager. (c) A keen person (d) is one who is vain.

8. (a) a hug. (b) An embrace is (c) An instant is (d) a handshake.

9. (a) To limp is to (b) grasp firmly. (c) To scurry is to (d) walk unevenly.

10. (a) to hold onto them. (b) to give them out. (c) To distribute things is (d) To confuse things is
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 7.

1. The dog's **uneven walk** was caused by a thorn in its left front paw.

2. I **opened my arms and held** my cousin, whom I hadn't seen in two years.

3. Stay close to shore where the water is **not very deep**.

4. My cat jumped as a mouse **ran with quick little steps** across the kitchen floor.

5. I caught a glimpse of the president in the parade for just one **very short period of time**.

6. This map is very **hard to follow** because some of the streets aren't named.

7. With just a slight **change in form** of the shape of the number, a 3 becomes an 8.

8. The boxes of food were **given out** in time for Thanksgiving.

9. My whole family **gathered around me**, singing “Happy Birthday.”

10. Luckily, the pilot was **thrown with great force** from the plane before it crashed.
Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following can be altered?
   (a) one's plans
   (b) today's date
   (c) a dress's hemline
   (d) one's age

2. Which of the following are flexible?
   (a) a sewing needle
   (b) a garden hose
   (c) a dancer's body
   (d) a length of cooked spaghetti

3. Which of the following could be given in an instant?
   (a) a yes-or-no answer
   (b) a nod of agreement
   (c) a ten-page report
   (d) a smile of welcome

4. Which of the following might feel limp?
   (a) a sheet of wet cardboard
   (b) a sleeping child
   (c) a sheet of ice
   (d) a sheet of plywood

5. Which of the following could scurry?
   (a) a spider
   (b) a whale
   (c) an elephant
   (d) a mouse

6. Which of the following could be seized?
   (a) a person's arm
   (b) a person's boat
   (c) a sneeze
   (d) a puff of smoke

7. Which of the following could be shallow?
   (a) a stick
   (b) a tree
   (c) a person's thinking
   (d) a pond

8. Which of the following might be keen?
   (a) a pessimist
   (b) a razor blade
   (c) a hammer
   (d) a dog's hearing
In Lesson 5, you met three prefixes, $un$-, $in$-, and $im$-. When attached to the front of a word, they turned the word into its opposite. The meaning of each prefix is “not.”

Here are three more prefixes. They add to, or change the meaning of, the word they’re attached to. $pre$- adds the meaning “before,” $re$- adds the meaning “again” or “against,” and $ex$- adds the meaning “out.” The prefix $ex$- is sometimes shortened to $e$-.

In column three, write the prefix of each word listed in column two. In the space provided, write the meaning of that prefix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. to fight against</td>
<td>resist</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. to bring out into the open</td>
<td>expose</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. to act before the need arises</td>
<td>prepare</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. not feeling easy in one’s mind</td>
<td>uneasy</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. to bring to mind once again</td>
<td>recall</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. to go out of bounds</td>
<td>exceed</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. to go over to correct</td>
<td>revise</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. to speak out loudly</td>
<td>exclaim</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. to throw out  eject
Prefix Meaning ______________________________

10. to say over again what one  recite
Prefix Meaning ______________________________

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**7E Passage**

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

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**Armed But Not Dangerous**

What has one head, eight arms, and the ability to change from gray to green to brown? Here is a clue: the Greek word for eight is *okto*. If you guessed octopus, you’re right!

The octopus lives in holes or openings in the rocky bottom of the sea. It protects itself from enemies by changing color to match its **surroundings**. In seaweed it can turn green; on sand it can turn brown; against rocks it can turn gray. For example, suppose an octopus is attacked by a shark. In an **instant**, it can change its color to blend into the background. The surprised shark is left wondering where the octopus went. The octopus can also protect itself by **ejecting** a large blob of black ink-like liquid. This acts as a screen. The trick can **confuse** the attacker into going after the blob. Meanwhile, the octopus has a chance to slip away.

An octopus has no bones, so it can easily **alter** its shape; it can then force its way inside empty shells or under rocks or into very narrow openings. To be even safer, it may cover itself with stones or shells.

The octopus’s eight rubbery arms are very **flexible**. They can easily wrap around even quite small objects. Each arm is **equipped** with two rows of fleshy, deeply set suckers. These give it a powerful grip. The octopus uses its arms to **seize** other animals as they **scurry** along the sea floor. Crabs and lobsters are among its **victims**. The octopus uses the two strong, horny beaks in its mouth to crack open their shells.

The octopus has **keen** eyesight. It needs sharp eyes because it hunts mostly at night. It has a large brain for its size, and it makes full use of its intelligence to catch food. For example, if an octopus cannot open a clam,
it will wait until the clam opens itself. When it does, the octopus will put a stone between the two shells so that they cannot close. Then it can get at the juicy clam without having to struggle.

There are many different kinds of octopuses, and they are widely distributed throughout the world’s oceans. They live mostly in warm, shallow water, not far from shore. The smallest ones grow to be no more than two inches across. The largest ones live in the Pacific Ocean. They can grow to be thirty feet across. Their width is mainly in their arms; their bodies might be only eighteen inches.

If, when swimming in the Pacific, you venture too far from shore, you may find yourself in the embrace of an octopus. What should you do? It is best not to struggle. Just let your body go limp; the octopus will probably let you go. Although movies sometimes show them as terrifying and dangerous monsters, there is no reason to fear them. Around humans, at least, octopuses are usually shy and gentle creatures.

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 does an octopus sitting in seaweed turn green?

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

2. How long does it take for an octopus to change colors?

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

3. Why does the octopus make a “screen”?

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

4. How does it make this screen?

   __________________________________________
5. How does its lack of a skeleton benefit an octopus?

6. How would bones in an octopus's arms affect the way it uses them?

7. How is the octopus equipped to grip things?

8. How do its eight arms help an octopus obtain food?

9. Why might an approaching octopus cause a crab to start scurrying?

10. How does an octopus get at the meat in a lobster it has caught?

11. Which of the octopus's senses is especially well-developed?

12. In what parts of the world do octopuses live?

13. Why are you unlikely to see an octopus in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean?
14. Would you be in danger in an octopus's **embrace?** Explain.

________________________________________________________________________

15. What is the meaning of **limp**, as used in the passage?

________________________________________________________________________

**FUN & FASCINATING FACTS**

- **Flexible** means "able to bend or change easily." The antonym of *flexible* is *rigid*, which means "stiff" or "unbending." An iron bar is rigid; if it is heated until it becomes very hot, it becomes flexible. Both words can be used **literally**, as in the example of the iron bar, and **figuratively**, as in the following examples: A person willing to change plans at the last minute is said to be *flexible*; someone refusing to make such changes may be called *rigid*. A job with *rigid* hours is one in which the work hours cannot be changed; a job with *flexible* hours is one in which the hours can be changed easily to suit the needs of the worker.

- **Alter** is a verb; *altar* (with two a's) is a noun. An *altar* is a table or platform used in churches or temples as a center of worship. A bride and groom may kneel or stand before the altar when they get married. Alter and altar are homophones—words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings.
### Word List

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ancient</td>
<td>adj. Very old; of a long time ago. The ancient city of Carthage was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C.E.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chamber</td>
<td>n. A room. The queen always has breakfast in her chamber before she comes downstairs. chambers n. pl. An office or group of offices. Lawyers for both sides met in the judge’s chambers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descend</td>
<td>v. To go or come down. The plane slowly descended to 2,000 feet. descendant n. One who has certain persons as one’s parents, grandparents, etc. The writer Alex Haley was a descendant of Kunta Kinte, who was brought to America as a slave from West Africa in 1767.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entry</td>
<td>n. 1. A way in. The thieves gained entry through an unlocked window. 2. Each separate item in a diary or list. The next entry in her diary simply said, “My brother returned home today after a long absence.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interior</td>
<td>n. The inside part of something. The sun’s interior is about 150,000 times hotter than boiling water. adj. Having to do with the inside part. Interior doors do not have to be as strongly made as front or back doors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intrude</td>
<td>v. To come or go in without permission or welcome. I didn’t mean to intrude on you while you were working. intrusion n. The act of intruding. “Forgive my intrusion,” she said as she came in without knocking. intruder n. One who intrudes. People were so unfriendly that I felt like an intruder at Jeff’s party.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>