

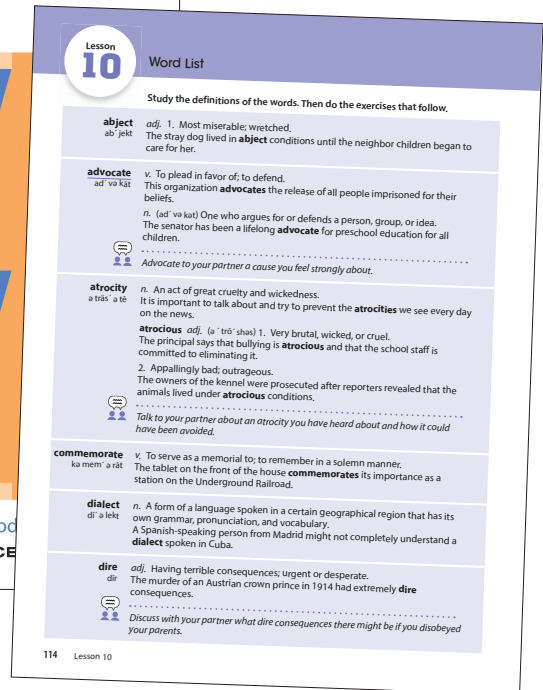
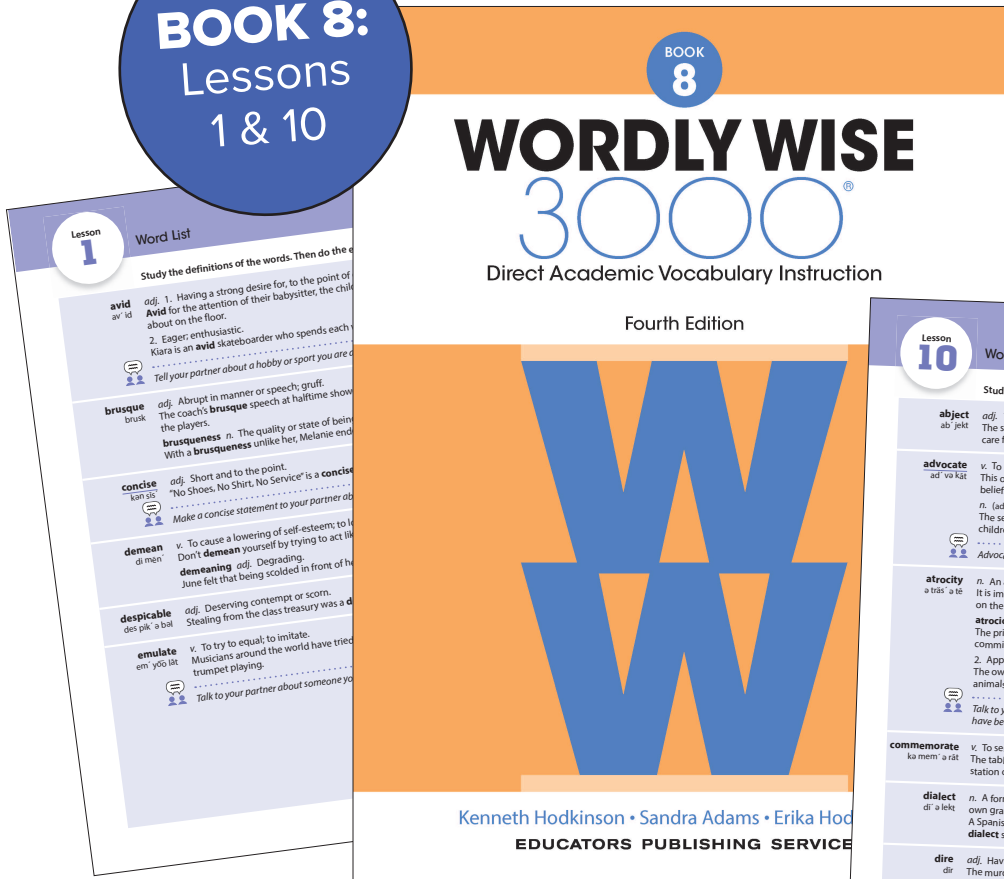
4th Edition

WORDLY WISE 3000®

SAMPLE LESSONS

Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction | Grades K–12 | RTI 

BOOK 8:
Lessons
1 & 10



Word List

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

avid
av' id

adj. 1. Having a strong desire for, to the point of greed.

Avid for the attention of their babysitter, the children shouted and tumbled about on the floor.

2. Eager; enthusiastic.

Kiara is an **avid** skateboarder who spends each weekend at the park.



.....
Tell your partner about a hobby or sport you are avid about.

brusque
brusk

adj. Abrupt in manner or speech; gruff.

The coach's **brusque** speech at halftime showed how unhappy he was with the players.

brusqueness *n.* The quality or state of being brusque.

With a **brusqueness** unlike her, Melanie ended the phone conversation.

concise
kən sīs'

adj. Short and to the point.

"No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service" is a **concise** way of explaining a dress code.



.....
Make a concise statement to your partner about your plans tonight.

demean
di mēn'

v. To cause a lowering of self-esteem; to lower in reputation or character.

Don't **demean** yourself by trying to act like those bullies.

demeaning *adj.* Degrading.

June felt that being scolded in front of her friends was **demeaning**.

despicable
des pik' ə bəl

adj. Deserving contempt or scorn.

Stealing from the class treasury was a **despicable** thing to do.

emulate
em' yōō lāt

v. To try to equal; to imitate.

Musicians around the world have tried to **emulate** Louis Armstrong's soulful trumpet playing.



.....
Talk to your partner about someone you try to emulate in an activity or in life.

evoke
ē vōk'

v. 1. To call forth; to produce.
The mayor's appeal for volunteers to clean up the park **evoked** a huge response from people in my neighborhood.

2. To bring to mind, often by suggestion.
The tinkling notes from the music box **evoked** for me the carefree joys of childhood.

evocative *adj.* (ē vāk' ə tiv) Creating something again, especially through the imagination.

The costumes and music of the film were **evocative** of Paris in the 1920s.



.....
Share with your partner a song that evokes good memories for you.

excruciating
eks krōō' shē āt in

adj. Very painful.
The ointment soothed the **excruciating** burn on Dalip's arm.

inaugurate
in ō' gyər āt

v. 1. To install in office with a formal ceremony.
Presidents of the United States are **inaugurated** in January following the November election.

2. To begin officially or mark the opening of.
On Tuesday, Mayor Ovalles **inaugurated** a new program to help the homeless.

inauguration *n.* The act of installing in office.
Governor Maitland was at her desk within hours of her **inauguration**.

pervade
pər vād'

v. To spread throughout.
Laughter **pervades** the house whenever Aunt Sara visits us.

pervasive *adj.* Spreading throughout.
Long after the fire was extinguished, the **pervasive** odor of smoke remained in every room.



.....
Discuss with your partner some pervasive odors you enjoy, such as from a holiday or from cooking a favorite food.

proprietor
prə prī' ə tər

n. An owner of a store or other business.
The **proprietors** of the downtown shops planned a sidewalk sale for the first weekend in June.

pseudonym
sōō' də nim

n. A fictitious name used by an author; a pen name.
Female British authors of the nineteenth century often had to use a male **pseudonym** in order to get their books published.



.....
Tell your partner what your pseudonym would be if you decided to write a book under a different name.

rebuff
rē buf'

v. 1. To reject bluntly.
Our teacher **rebuffed** all our requests to change the deadline for the project.

2. To drive back.
Although the men in the Alamo were determined to **rebuff** Santa Anna's forces, in the end they were defeated.

n. 1. A blunt rejection.
Caroline's offer to Frida to patch up their quarrel met with a **rebuff**.
2. An abrupt setback in progress.
After a storm delayed their start, the climbers experienced another **rebuff** when a rock slide shut down one of the trails.



.....
Talk to your partner about a time a friend rebuffed your plans.

resilient
rē zil' yənt

adj. 1. Capable of recovering quickly from misfortune.
After she lost her job, my mom was so **resilient**, she went out and found another one.

2. Returning quickly to an original shape or condition.
A wool sweater is more **resilient** after washing than a cotton one.

resilience n. 1. The ability to recover.
Stefano showed great **resilience** after he caught the flu.

2. The ability to spring back.
Tennis balls lose **resilience** after three or four sets of vigorous play.

turbulent
tɜr' byə lənt

adj. 1. Chaotic; unruly.
My brother and I tried our best to stay calm during the **turbulent** period of our parents' divorce.

2. Stormy; tempestuous.
Such a **turbulent** sea prevented all boats from leaving the harbor.

turbulence n. 1. Great disturbance or agitation.
The **turbulence** of the 1960s included peace marches, civil rights protests, and assassinations.

2. Rapid changes in wind speed and direction in the atmosphere.
The "Fasten Your Seatbelts" sign flashed on when the plane encountered **turbulence**.

1A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) To inaugurate someone is to
(b) try to win that person's favor. (c) To rebuff someone is to
(d) install that person in office.

2. (a) be unreliable or untrustworthy.
(b) have a strong desire for something. (c) To be avid is to
(d) To be resilient is to

3. (a) is to summon it from memory.
(b) To emulate something (c) To pervade something
(d) is to spread throughout it.

4. (a) one that is ignored.
(b) one that deserves contempt. (c) A despicable comment is
(d) A brusque comment is

5. (a) returns to its original shape.
(b) Something that is resilient (c) Something that is evocative
(d) is easily damaged.

6. (a) one that is favorable.
(b) one that is abrupt in manner. (c) A brusque remark is
(d) A concise remark is

7. (a) A proprietor is
(b) a fictitious name. (c) a story made up on the spur of
the moment.
(d) A pseudonym is

avid

brusque

concise

demean

despicable

emulate

evoke

excruciating

inaugurate

pervade

proprietor

pseudonym

rebuff

resilient

turbulent

8. (a) try to imitate that person. (c) To emulate someone is to
(b) try to influence that person. (d) To demean someone is to
-
-

9. (a) An evocative poem (c) is one that is difficult to understand.
(b) A concise poem (d) has the ability to bring back feelings.
-
-

10. (a) To demean someone is to (c) reject that person.
(b) To rebuff someone is to (d) praise that person.
-
-

1B

Just the Right Word

Replace each phrase in bold with a single word (or form of the word) from the word list.

1. The swelling in Denise's ankle was **so painful that she could hardly stand it**.
2. From Ms. Hernandez's **abrupt manner**, the students understood immediately that something was wrong.
3. The 1930s was a **very disturbed and agitated** decade in European history.
4. When the lawyer attempted to **harm the reputation of** the witness by calling her a liar, the judge intervened.
5. Who is the **person with the legal right to the ownership** of the furniture business?
6. Without any explanation, Emi **bluntly rejected** Brandon's offer to help change the tire.
7. Uncle Joshua used to be an **eager and enthusiastic** fan of the Hartford Whalers until the team moved to North Carolina and changed its name to the Carolina Hurricanes.

8. My family needs to be **able to recover quickly from misfortune** to survive in these difficult times.
9. The **installation** of the first president, George Washington, took place on April 30, 1789.
10. Ernest Hemingway wrote in a style that was **short and to the point**.

1c

Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might employ a **pseudonym**?

(a) a writer	(c) a president of a country
(b) a Supreme Court judge	(d) a small business
2. Which of the following can have a **proprietor**?

(a) a corner store	(c) a small business
(b) a small child	(d) a government agency
3. Which of the following has **resilience**?

(a) a person	(c) a lawn
(b) a doormat	(d) a question
4. Which of the following can be **pervasive**?

(a) time	(c) fear
(b) silence	(d) a smell
5. Which of the following can be **inaugurated**?

(a) a president	(c) a bad habit
(b) a delivery service	(d) a promise
6. Which of the following can be **evoked**?

(a) a loose tooth	(c) a happy memory
(b) a grudging response	(d) a broken ski pole
7. Which of the following might suffer a **rebuff**?

(a) an announcement	(c) a proposal
(b) an attack	(d) a friendly gesture

avid

brusque

concise

demean

despicable

emulate

evoke

excruciating

inaugurate

pervade

proprietor

pseudonym

rebuff

resilient

turbulent

8. In which of the following might there be **turbulence**?

- (a) a relationship (c) the ocean
(b) the air (d) a lawn

1D

Word Study: Similar Meanings

Choose from the two words provided and use each word just once when completing each sentence. One space should be left blank.

brusque / abrupt

1. I was greeted with a(n) _____ “no” when I asked if I could help.
2. A(n) _____ person seems always to be in a hurry.
3. The bus came to a(n) _____ stop when a dog ran in front of it.

rebuff / reject

4. If you like, you can _____ another card from the top of the deck.
5. The soldiers were able to _____ the enemy’s charges.
6. The agency will _____ applications that are not properly signed and dated.

emulate / imitate

7. To walk on the moon is a feat that no one is likely to _____ anytime soon.
8. To _____ someone else’s answers during a test can get a student in serious trouble.
9. To _____ the sound of bird calls is quite an accomplishment.

demeaning / despicable

10. There is nothing _____ about asking for help if you need it.
11. There was a _____ expression on his face as he warned us of the danger.
12. It is _____ to buy a puppy and mistreat it.

turbulent / stormy

13. Everyone screamed as the _____ rapids almost overturned the raft.
14. The principal's voice grew _____ as he spoke of his concern for the school's future.
15. The forecast of _____ weather caused the cancellation of all ferry crossings.

1E

Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.



A Poet of the People

Maya Angelou was honored by William Jefferson Clinton when he invited her to read a poem she had written to celebrate his **inauguration** as the forty-second president of the United States. This was a fitting tribute to the woman whose early life had seemed so empty of promise when she was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, sixty-four years before. She sums up that life **concisely** in these lines from one of her poems: “. . . birthing is hard / and dying is mean / and living's a trial in between.”

When she was still a small child, her parents divorced; she and her older brother Bailey were raised by their grandmother, Annie Henderson, affectionately known as Momma. Mrs. Henderson was the **proprietor** of the only general store in Stamps, Arkansas, owned by an African American. In her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Angelou **evokes** Momma's powerful presence as she lovingly describes the way her grandmother coped with the bigotry and racial hatred that was widespread in the country in the 1930s. It was this **resilience** that most impressed Angelou and which she herself tried to **emulate** throughout her life.

One example of such bigotry involved a visit to the dentist. Angelou was suffering from an **excruciating** toothache. Momma had no choice but to take her granddaughter to the town's only dentist, who was white. When she asked him to treat the little girl's toothache, he **rebuffed** her, using extremely **demeaning** language. He told her that he would rather put his hand in a dog's mouth than treat a black person. Momma reminded him that she had helped him in the past by making him interest-free loans; now she was asking a favor

avid
brusque
concise
demean
despicable
emulate
evoke
excruciating
inaugurate
pervade
proprietor
pseudonym
rebuff
resilient
turbulent

in return. But he **brusquely** asserted that his debts had been paid. He ordered her to leave. After taking her grandchild out of the office, Momma returned and stood her ground. She demanded that the dentist pay her a fair rate of interest on the loans she had made him. Finally, he handed over ten dollars, a large sum in those days. Only then did she depart, her dignity intact. She traveled over thirty miles with her granddaughter to Texarkana, where the nearest African-American dentist practiced.

When Angelou was eight years old, she and her brother went to live with their mother in St. Louis. There her mother's boyfriend abused her. He threatened to harm Bailey if she told anyone. When Angelou became ill, her mother discovered the **despicable** abuse. The boyfriend was brought to trial and convicted. But the shock of the experience left Angelou unable to speak for several years.

In spite of her troubled and **turbulent** childhood, a spirit of optimism **pervades** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. In it, Angelou pays tribute to those who helped and encouraged her. Among them was a neighbor named Bertha Flowers. She gave Angelou books and introduced her to the pleasures of reading poetry, drama, and great novels. As a result of Flowers's influence, Angelou became an **avid** reader. This led later to her dream of becoming a writer. Four more volumes of autobiography and many collections of poetry followed *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. All appeared under her **pseudonym**, Maya Angelou, a name she began using in the 1950s.

It was a long and difficult road that she had traveled, but it led to the presidential platform where she read her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" to an audience of millions on that cold January day. Angelou had triumphed over many difficulties, strengthened by the deep faith expressed in these lines from the poem, "Lift up your hearts / Each new hour holds new chances / For a new beginning." She died peacefully in her sleep in 2014. A year later the U.S. Postal Service issued a special Maya Angelou stamp to honor her memory.

- **Answer each of the following questions with 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 is it inaccurate to say that Momma was Mrs. Henderson's **pseudonym**?

2. Why would you not use the word **concise** to describe the title of Angelou's first book?

3. Why did Angelou compose "On the Pulse of Morning"?

4. Why did Mrs. Henderson have to be knowledgeable about business?

5. Why was Momma desperate to get her granddaughter to a dentist?

6. How did the dentist let Momma know that she was not welcome?

7. Why is Angelou's mother's boyfriend someone one would not **emulate**?

8. In what way did the dentist show **despicable** behavior?

9. What is the meaning of **evoke** as it is used in the passage?

10. What is one way that Angelou showed **resilience** in her life?

11. What was **turbulent** about Angelou's life immediately after her parents' divorce?

avid

brusque

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pseudonym

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resilient

turbulent

12. What details in the passage suggest that Bertha Flowers’s treatment of Angelou was not **brusque**?

13. How is *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* a positive book?

14. How do you know that Angelou did not **rebuff** President Clinton’s request for a poem?

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

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

.....

- The original meaning of the verb **demean**, “to conduct oneself,” suggested neither good nor bad behavior. (Jane’s young cousins *demeaned* themselves in a proper manner during their stay with her.) Even though this meaning continues, a second meaning, “to act in a way that lowers one’s reputation or character,” has largely replaced it. (You *demean* yourself by asking favors of someone who you have treated so badly.)

The original meaning of the verb survives in *demeanor*, the noun form, which means “the manner in which one behaves or conducts oneself.” (No one could tell from Alonso’s *demeanor* that he was very angry.)

.....

- **Pseudonym**, a false name used by writers and others in place of their real name, is formed from the Greek roots *pseudo*, “false,” and *onuma*, “name.”

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

abject

ab'jekt

adj. 1. Most miserable; wretched.

The stray dog lived in **abject** conditions until the neighbor children began to care for her.

advocate

ad'və kāt

v. To plead in favor of; to defend.

This organization **advocates** the release of all people imprisoned for their beliefs.

n. (ad'və kāt) One who argues for or defends a person, group, or idea.

The senator has been a lifelong **advocate** for preschool education for all children.



.....
Advocate to your partner a cause you feel strongly about.

atrocious

ə trās' ə tē

n. An act of great cruelty and wickedness.

It is important to talk about and try to prevent the **atrocities** we see every day on the news.

atrocious *adj.* (ə' trō' shəs) 1. Very brutal, wicked, or cruel.

The principal says that bullying is **atrocious** and that the school staff is committed to eliminating it.

2. Appallingly bad; outrageous.

The owners of the kennel were prosecuted after reporters revealed that the animals lived under **atrocious** conditions.



.....
Talk to your partner about an atrocity you have heard about and how it could have been avoided.

commemorate

kə mem' ə rāt

v. To serve as a memorial to; to remember in a solemn manner.

The tablet on the front of the house **commemorates** its importance as a station on the Underground Railroad.

dialect

dī' ə lekt

n. A form of a language spoken in a certain geographical region that has its own grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

A Spanish-speaking person from Madrid might not completely understand a **dialect** spoken in Cuba.

dire

dīr

adj. Having terrible consequences; urgent or desperate.

The murder of an Austrian crown prince in 1914 had extremely **dire** consequences.



.....
Discuss with your partner what dire consequences there might be if you disobeyed your parents.

elite
e lēt'

n. A group that enjoys superior status to others.
People in the social **elite** of New York City use private cars so they do not have to ride the subways.

adj. Considered superior to others.
The eight Ivy League institutions are considered **elite** compared to other universities, though the quality of instruction is often the same.

enhance
en hanz'



v. To make greater or better.
The large window in our new kitchen **enhances** the room's light, airy feeling.

.....
Talk to your partner about improvements that could enhance your learning experience at school, such as more study halls or better computers.

flagrant
flā' grənt

adj. Clearly offensive or bad; conspicuously acting against what is right.
Leaving school grounds early is a **flagrant** violation of school rules.

languish
lanj' gwish

v. To lose hope, strength, or vitality because of neglect or bad conditions.
We **languished** on the porch as the rain soaked the picnic blanket and all the food we had laid out.

mute
myōōt



v. To soften or tone down the sound of.
The state legislature has agreed to build walls at the airport to **mute** the roar of the jet engines for nearby residents.

adj. Not speaking or not able to speak; silent.
The little boy remained **mute** when his new preschool teacher asked his name.

.....
Tell your partner the appropriate times and places to mute your voice.

raze
rāz

v. To level to the ground; to destroy completely.
Just as the row of seventeenth-century buildings was about to be **razed**, the preservation society requested a delay.

reprisal
ri prī' zəl



n. A retaliation for an injury.
We decided there would be no **reprisals** for the high school students who painted graffiti on the walls.

.....
Chat with partner about whether there is ever a situation when reprisals are appropriate.

turmoil
tər' moil

n. A state of confusion or agitation; tumult.
With flood waters rising and an order to evacuate our home in an hour, my family was in a **turmoil**, trying to decide what to do first.

wreak
rĕk

v. 1. To bring about or inflict.

The tornado **wreaked** destruction along the path it followed through the center of town.

2. To express or vent.

Sahil **wreaked** his anger by pounding on the hood of the car.



.....
Discuss with your partner a time when bad weather wreaked damage upon a local place.

10A

Using Words in Context

Read the following sentences. If the word in bold is used correctly, write C on the line. If the word is used incorrectly, write I on the line.

- (a) I **wreaked** silently in and out to control my breathing. ____

(b) The Black Death **wreaked** devastation across Europe. ____

(c) A country's leader can **wreak** havoc by making a false move. ____

(d) The imminent arrival of the hurricane **wreaked** our plans for the weekend. ____
- (a) The Dalai Lama has been a lifelong **advocate** for world peace. ____

(b) The class **advocates** that they should watch a movie instead of take a test. ____

(c) **Advocates** grow best in tropical and subtropical climates. ____

(d) Parents need to be **advocates** for their children in the healthcare system. ____
- (a) Leaving the gate unlocked was a **flagrant** breach of the rules. ____

(b) The most **flagrant** crimes often get the most news coverage. ____

(c) The **flagrant** honeysuckle is Ty's favorite flower. ____

(d) Johanna loves the **flagrant** smell of freshly cut grass. ____
- (a) Siya's grade was **razed** from a C to a B. ____

(b) The old library is being **razed** to make way for a new one. ____

(c) The floor needs to be **razed** six inches. ____

(d) Much of the building was **razed** to the ground by the fire. ____
- (a) The bear sighting has the neighborhood in **turmoil**. ____

(b) He threw the ball against the **turmoil** and watched it roll away. ____

(c) When anarchy was unleashed, the whole country was in **turmoil**. ____

(d) Wrap the fish in **turmoil** before you grill it. ____

abject

advocate

atrocious

commemorate

dialect

dire

elite

enhance

flagrant

languish

mute

raze

reprisal

turmoil

wreak

6. (a) Self-driving cars will **enhance** road safety by removing human error. ____
(b) The hikers were **enhanced** temporarily under the shelter during the storm. ____
(c) This new product is guaranteed to **enhance** your hair's health. ____
(d) Having a positive attitude **enhances** your chances of success. ____
7. (a) My application for the summer job **languished** at the bottom of the pile. ____
(b) Hope **languished** before the rescue team showed up. ____
(c) The city **languished** millions of dollars on a new visitors' center. ____
(d) The team **languished** at the bottom of the league for most of the season. ____
8. (a) I **commemorated** Angelina for winning the spelling bee. ____
(b) We **commemorate** the birth of our nation every Fourth of July. ____
(c) The school **commemorates** Martin Luther King Day by giving everyone a day off. ____
(d) Kimiko **commemorated** the poem and recited it perfectly at the concert. ____
9. (a) Annie was **mute** with awe when she saw a whale for the first time. ____
(b) You can respond to my question or just remain **mute**. ____
(c) I **muted** the television to listen to my brother's story. ____
(d) **Mute** the tree before it falls on the house. ____
10. (a) An **elite** team was sent to the spelling bee and won. ____
(b) Only the **elite** were sent invitations to the ball in the New York City penthouse. ____
(c) Should I dye my hair **elite** or dark? ____
(d) Light the fire before it gets too cold and **elite**. ____

10B

Making Connections

Circle the letter next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Which word or words go with *worthy of respect*?
 (a) illustrious (b) notable (c) elite (d) dialect
2. Which word or words go with *conflict*?
 (a) turbulence (b) enhance (c) turmoil (d) tumult
3. Which word or words go with *improve*?
 (a) wreak (b) enhance (c) raze (d) elevate
4. Which word or words go with *get rid of*?
 (a) commemorate (b) enhance (c) annihilate (d) raze
5. Which word or words go with *speech*?
 (a) reprisal (b) dialect (c) mute (d) turmoil
6. Which word or words go with *retaliate*?
 (a) advocate (b) reprisal (c) banter (d) languish
7. Which word or words go with *terrible*?
 (a) quaint (b) elite (c) abhorrent (d) dire
8. Which word or words go with *language*?
 (a) advocate (b) dialect (c) translate (d) reprisal
9. Which word or words go with *shocking*?
 (a) monstrous (b) copious (c) atrocious (d) elite
10. Which word or words go with *misery*?
 (a) torment (b) method (c) enhance (d) anguish

abject
advocate
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elite
enhance
flagrant
languish
mute
raze
reprisal
turmoil
wreak

Determining Meanings

Circle the letter next to each answer choice that correctly completes the sentence. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. **Reprisals**

- (a) by the military took various forms.
- (b) fell thick and fast on the field, icy cold and blazing white.
- (c) were sent into the yard to play with each other.
- (d) were distributed to the guilty students.

2. A **flagrant**

- (a) smell of smoke greeted Caleb as he stepped outside the cabin.
- (b) breach of the law will be punished.
- (c) smile from his mom let him know everything was all right.
- (d) display of bad manners will get you in trouble.

3. A **dire**

- (a) amount of money was raised to support the local hospital.
- (b) smell told us the meal was ready.
- (c) warning requested that everyone lock their doors.
- (d) forecast says a hurricane is on its way.

4. The **dialect**

- (a) of the people in northern Spain is spoken by over a million people.
- (b) between the two debaters lightened when they began to banter.
- (c) should be turned until the arrow points to the zero.
- (d) known as Creole takes dozens of different forms.

5. The **commemoration**

- (a) of lines can be difficult for the lead role in a play.
- (b) will be on Veterans Day at the statehouse.
- (c) of the women who fought for equal rights is on Saturday.
- (d) between the dolphins was amazing to hear.

6. The **atrocities**

- (a) were committed by both sides in the war.
- (b) ordered by the president will always be remembered with regret.
- (c) of the future will bring us technology we can't even imagine.
- (d) of the game were explained to both sides before kickoff.

7. An **advocate**

- (a) for the homeless suggested renovating abandoned houses.
- (b) can be grown in any large pot.
- (c) for the students was chosen to represent them.
- (d) on the playground is the best in town.

8. **Abject**

- (a) fear during the movie caused me to cover my eyes.
- (b) sadness is unavoidable at some point in life.
- (c) happiness filled his heart as he stepped outside.
- (d) misery was felt by the family members at the funeral.



Completing Sentences

Complete the sentences to demonstrate your knowledge of the words in bold.

1. An example of a **dire** warning about the weather is:

_____ .

2. I would like to be an **advocate** for

_____ .

3. An **elite** group is one that

_____ .

4. I would feel **abject** terror if I saw

_____ .

5. I can **enhance** my health by

_____ .

6. A **flagrant** action might be

_____ .

7. If you **languish** over something bad, that means you

_____ .

8. Something that might lead to **turmoil** in school is

_____ .

9. A **reprisal** is

_____ .

10. The opposite of **atrocious** is

_____ .

abject
advocate
atrocious
commemorate
dialect
dire
elite
enhance
flagrant
languish
mute
raze
reprisal
turmoil
wreak



Rigoberta Menchu

The four-hundredth anniversary of Columbus's famous voyage was **commemorated** in 1892 with much fanfare throughout North and South America. The five-hundredth-anniversary celebrations, in 1992, were **muted** by comparison. Instead of celebrating, many people drew attention to how thoroughly the European settlers had **wreaked** devastation upon the original inhabitants of the Americas. In that year, too, the Nobel Committee awarded its Peace Prize to Rigoberta Menchu, a thirty-three-year-old native woman from Guatemala. She was honored for her "increasingly prominent part as an **advocate** of native rights."

Until Menchu was sixteen, she spoke only Quiche, one of some twenty **dialects** of the Guatemalan native peoples. The Quiche are the descendants of the once-proud Mayas. Mayan civilization flourished in Central America until about 900. Menchu came to prominence in 1983 with the publication in Spanish of her autobiography *I, Rigoberta Menchu*. The book gives an account of the **atrocities** committed by government forces from the 1960s up to the 1980s against the peasant population of Guatemala.

While the country's **elite** lived in heavily guarded, luxurious homes in Guatemala City, the native peoples lived in **abject** poverty. Natives made up more than half of the population. Their little plots of land, which provided only a meager living, could be seized without warning by wealthy landowners. To protest was to risk severe punishment by the army. An entire village could be **razed** and its inhabitants slaughtered. During the thirty-year conflict, an estimated one hundred thousand unarmed native peasants were killed; tens of thousands fled the **turmoil** in the countryside for the safety of neighboring Mexico. There they **languished** for many years in refugee camps. Others escaped to the mountains to wage a decades-long civil war against the army.

Menchu's own family experienced terrible losses for resisting the army's rigid control of the country. Her father was repeatedly beaten and jailed for organizing nonviolent protests. In 1980, he was part of a group that occupied the Spanish embassy in Guatemala City. The goal was to draw attention to the government's **flagrant** abuses of human rights. During this occupation, the building was set on fire, killing those trapped inside. Later, Menchu's sixteen-year-old brother, along with twenty others, were abducted and killed by the

3. What **reprisal** did government forces make for the occupation of the Spanish embassy?

4. What **atrocities** was Menchu's father subjected to?

5. What were the **dire** consequences for Menchu's family after the Spanish embassy burned?

6. What event will be **commemorated** in 2092?

7. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Rigoberta Menchu as **mute** about the suffering of the Guatemalan people?

8. Do you think Menchu's family was part of the country's **elite**? Explain.

9. What is the meaning of **abject** as it is used in the passage?

10. Give one example from the passage of a **flagrant** abuse of human rights by the Guatemalan military.

11. What does the passage say tens of thousands of Guatemalans did during the thirty-year conflict?

12. How do you know that the lives of the Guatemalans who fled to Mexico did not improve much?

13. How do you think Rigoberta Menchu's autobiography **enhanced** people's knowledge of what was happening in Guatemala?

14. What is the meaning of **wreaked** as it is used in the passage?

15. During the war, why were many Guatemalan peasants left homeless?

Fun & Fascinating FACTS

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 - The Latin prefix *ab-*, "from" or "away," combines with the root from the Latin verb *jacere*, "to throw," to form the adjective **abject**. Its original meaning is "cast out" or "rejected." It now means "wretched" or "in a low state."
-
 - The Latin *flagrare* means "to burn" and forms the root of the adjective **flagrant**. The original meaning of this word was "flaming" or "blazing," which changed over time to "out-rageous" or "conspicuously bad." A blazing fire is certainly conspicuous, and perhaps it is this connection that led to the change in meaning.
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 - One of the meanings of *raise* is "to build." It is curious then that **raze**, a word with the same pronunciation, has just the opposite meaning, "to destroy completely." (While it can take a team of workers several days to *raise* a barn, a tornado can *raze* it in a matter of minutes.)

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