



## Word List

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

**antic** *n.* (usually plural) A playful or funny act.  
an' tik The **antics** of the clown made the crowd roar with laughter.

**attire** *n.* Clothes, especially fine and expensive clothes.  
ə tīr' One often needs special **attire** to be in a wedding party.  
*v.* To dress up or be dressed up.  
The designer **attired** the models in shirts and trousers for the fashion show.

**captivate** *v.* To please greatly; to win over by special charm.  
kap' ti vāt The cast's superb acting **captivated** the audience.

**deft** *adj.* Quick and sure; skillful at handling.  
deft A **deft** juggler can keep five or more objects in the air at one time.

**diligent** *adj.* Working with great care and effort.  
dil' ə jənt **Diligent** students usually attain high marks.

**eclipse** *n.* The total or partial hiding of one heavenly body by another.  
ē klīps' An **eclipse** of the sun occurs when the moon passes directly in front of it.  
*v.* To do or be better than; to outshine.  
Her latest novel **eclipses** all of her previous work.

**evolve** *v.* To develop and change gradually over time.  
ē vōlv' Some scientists think that modern birds may have **evolved** from dinosaurs.  
**evolution** *n.* (ev ə lōō' shən) The changes that take place as something evolves.  
The **evolution** of aircraft from the Wright brothers' flimsy plane to the modern jet airplane occurred over an incredibly short time.

**innate** *adj.* Having from birth; occurring naturally rather than being learned.  
in āt' Mozart's **innate** musical ability showed itself at a very early age.

**inscribe** *v.* To write, print, or etch into as a permanent record.  
in skrib' Most of the gravestones were simply **inscribed** with the person's name, date of birth, and date of death.  
**inscription** *n.* (in skrip' shən) The act of inscribing or what is inscribed.  
Coins of the United States bear the **inscription** "E Pluribus Unum."

**posture** *n.* The way one holds one's body; a pose or position.  
päs' chər You can improve your **posture** by throwing your shoulders back.  
*v.* To assume a particular position, especially a pretended one.  
They **postured** as my supporters while secretly campaigning against me.

**shroud** *n.* 1. Something that covers or hides from view.  
shroud A **shroud** of mystery surrounds the couple's disappearance.  
2. Cloth used to wrap a dead body before burial.  
It used to be the custom to make a **shroud** from a long linen sheet dipped in melted wax.  
*v.* To block from sight.  
Dense fog on the river **shrouded** the tug boats.

**stifle** *v.* 1. To cut off the air from; to smother.  
stī' fəl Thick smoke **stifled** those who remained in the burning building.  
2. To hold back; to check.  
The spectators tried to **stifle** their yawns during the lengthy ceremony.

**tentative** *adj.* Not fully worked out or final; hesitating or uncertain.  
ten' tə tiv The deadline is **tentative** and may be extended.

**tranquil** *adj.* Calm; peaceful.  
tran' kwil The sea was **tranquil** with no hint of the approaching storm.  
**tranquility** *n.* (tran' kwil' ə tē) The state of being tranquil.  
Many authors prefer writing during the **tranquility** of early morning before anyone else is up.

**versatile** *adj.* Able to do many different things or to be used in many different ways.  
vər' sə təl She is a **versatile** musician who can play eight instruments.  
**versatility** *n.* (vər sə til' ə tē) The state or condition of being versatile.  
The tomato's **versatility** and distinct flavor make it a favorite of many cooks.