



Word List

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

adequate
ad' ə kwət*adj.* Enough; sufficient.
One blanket will be **adequate** on such a warm night.**administer**
ad min' is tər*v.* 1. To manage or direct.
The Red Cross **administers** the blood donor program.
2. To give out as treatment or assistance.
The scout leader **administered** first aid to the child who had cut his hand.**agitate**
aj' ə tāt*v.* 1. To disturb or upset.
Talk of sharks in the water **agitated** swimmers at the beach.
2. To move with an irregular, fast, or violent action.
Strong winds **agitated** the surface of the lake.
3. To stir up interest in and support for a cause.
The miners **agitated** for better working conditions.**capitulate**
kə pich' yōō lāt*v.* To give in; to surrender.
The airline **capitulated** to the baggage handlers' demands and granted the pay raise.**citrus**
sī' trəs*n.* 1. A fruit of the family that includes oranges, lemons, grapefruits, and limes.
A **citrus** is an excellent source of vitamin C.
2. A tree that produces these fruits.
Citruses grow well in Florida.
adj. Of or relating to these fruits or trees.
The kumquat is a less well-known member of the **citrus** family.**disrupt**
dis rupt'*v.* 1. To break up the orderly course of.
Angry protesters **disrupted** the president's speech.
2. To interrupt; to bring to a temporary halt.
A strike by the drivers **disrupted** service on the subway.
disruptive *adj.* Causing confusion or disorder.
Disruptive behavior is not acceptable in the classroom.
disruption *n.* A disturbance that interrupts or causes confusion.
Work on the telephone lines caused a temporary **disruption** of service.**hovel**
huv' əl*n.* An unpleasant, cramped, and dilapidated place to live.
The Saxons complained that they were forced to live in **hovels** while their Norman conquerers had fine homes.

illiterate
il lit' ə r ə t

adj. Unable to read or write.
Volunteers are needed to help teach **illiterate** adults how to read.

illiteracy *n.* Inability to read or write.

Illiteracy is practically nonexistent in Japan.

indifferent
in dif' ə r ə n t

adj. 1. Not concerned about; not caring.
The authorities can no longer afford to be **indifferent** to the problem of nuclear waste disposal.

2. Neither very good nor very bad; passable.
Her **indifferent** grades in school worried her parents.

menial
mē' nē ə l

adj. Of or relating to low-level, humble work.
Desperate for money, Oliver accepted **menial** work with low pay.

permanent
pər' mən ə n t

adj. Lasting or expected to last for a long time.
A child's first **permanent** teeth appear at about the age of six.

respite
res' pit

n. A period of rest; a pause.
The rain brought a welcome **respite** from the tremendous heat.

strenuous
stren' yoo ə s

adj. 1. Needing much effort; using a lot of energy.
Chopping wood is **strenuous** work.

2. Very active; vigorous.
The plan to close the local school met with **strenuous** opposition from parents.

toil
toil

v. 1. To work long and hard.
Sugar cane cutters **toil** in the fields from dawn to dusk.

2. To make one's way with difficulty.
We **toiled** up the steep hill.

n. Hard and tiring labor.
After a lifetime of **toil**, her retirement is a richly deserved reward.

urgent
ur' jə n t

adj. Needing quick action or attention.
The county has an **urgent** need for a new hospital.

urgency *n.* The need for quick action.

The senator stressed the **urgency** of cleaning up the polluted waters of our country.