



## Word List

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

**brawl**  
brôl  
*n.* A rough, noisy fight.  
A **brawl** broke out when one of the workers accused another of stealing.  
*v.* To fight noisily.  
Players who **brawl** during the game are fined.

**casual**  
kăzh' oô əl  
*adj.* 1. Not planned.  
Several friends got together for a **casual** meeting after the movie.  
2. Not regular; occasional.  
I have a **casual** job doing errands for my uncle when he needs me.  
3. Suitable for everyday use; comfortable.  
The store sells **casual** apparel for the beach.

**constant**  
kăn' stənt  
*adj.* 1. Not changing.  
The function of cruise control is to keep the car at a **constant** speed.  
2. Loyal; faithful.  
The farmer's **constant** companion is an affectionate collie.  
3. Without a pause; unending.  
A small child requires **constant** attention.

**excel**  
ək səl'  
*v.* To do well; to be better or greater than others.  
Babe Ruth **excelled** both as a pitcher and as a batter.

**exhaust**  
eg zôst'  
*v.* 1. To use up.  
Lost on the mountain, the climbers **exhausted** their supplies after two days.  
2. To tire out.  
A ten-mile hike will **exhaust** most people.  
*n.* The waste gases from an engine; *also*, the system that pumps out such waste gases.  
The muffler is often the first part of the **exhaust** to wear out.

**hardy**  
hăr' dē  
*adj.* Able to survive under bad conditions; tough.  
Sage is a **hardy** plant that can be left outside during the winter.

**mediocre**  
mē dē ō' kər  
*adj.* Of low to medium quality; barely passable.  
**Mediocre** grades make it difficult to get into a good college.

**monotonous** *adj.* Always the same; not varying; boring.  
mə nāt' n əs Making photocopies is **monotonous** work.

**monotony** *n.* Lack of variety resulting in boredom.  
Switching tasks helps to relieve the **monotony** of assembly-line work.

**originate** *v.* To bring or come into being.  
ə rij' ə nāt The custom of sending Valentine cards **originated** in the 1800s.

**origin** *n.* (ôr' ə jin) A beginning or coming into being.  
What is the **origin** of the story that alligators live in the New York sewers?

**punctuate** *v.* 1. To add marks such as commas and periods to writing to make the meaning clear.  
pun'k chōō āt Choose the best way to **punctuate** this sentence.

2. To interrupt from time to time.  
Claps of thunder **punctuated** the evening.

**punctuation** *n.* (pun'k chōō ā' shən) The use of marks such as commas and periods in writing.  
Using a comma instead of a semicolon is a common error in **punctuation**.

**ravenous** *adj.* 1. Very hungry.  
rav' ə nəs The skaters were **ravenous** because they'd skipped lunch.

2. Eager for whatever satisfies one's needs or wants.  
To be **ravenous** for praise shows a lack of confidence in oneself.

**realistic** *adj.* 1. Closely resembling real life.  
rē ə lis' tik This video game has very **realistic** race-car sounds.

2. Aware of things as they are; practical.  
Running a Saturday car wash is a **realistic** way for the club to raise money.

**soothe** *v.* 1. To make calm and relaxed.  
sōōth The principal tried to **soothe** the angry students by promising to consider their demands.

2. To relieve soreness; to make less painful.  
Calamine lotion will **soothe** a sunburn.

**stampede** *n.* A sudden rush of animals or people, usually caused by fear.  
stam pēd' A breeze carried the lion's scent to the antelope and began a **stampede** of the herd.

*v.* To take part in a stampede.  
The crowd **stampeded** for the exit when someone yelled "Fire!"