



## Word List

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

**acrid**  
ak' rid*adj.* Sharp, irritating, or bitter to the sense of taste or smell.  
Burning rubber gives off **acrid** fumes.**casualty**  
kazh' oō əl tē*n.* A person killed or injured in a war or accident.  
There were many **casualties** of the 2011 tsunami, or tidal wave, that struck Japan.**congested**  
kən jest' əd*adj.* 1. Overcrowded; filled too full.  
We take the subway during rush hour to avoid the **congested** city streets.

2. Filled with fluid.

My sinuses get **congested** when the pollen count is high.**congestion** *n.* 1. The condition of being overcrowded.The **congestion** inside the furniture store is due to the "Going out of Business" sale.

2. The condition of being filled with fluid.

Most cold remedies claim to relieve **congestion** for at least eight hours.**cope**  
kōp*v.* To manage problems or difficulties successfully.  
Extra police were on duty to **cope** with the large crowds expected for the parade.**headlong**  
hed' lōŋ*adj.* With great speed or force; reckless.The crowd made a **headlong** rush for the best seats as soon as the doors were opened.*adv.* Recklessly; without time for careful thought.It's foolish to rush **headlong** into a dispute that doesn't concern you.**hurtle**  
hərt' l*v.* To move with great force and speed.A snowball **hurtled** past my ear.**impede**  
im pēd'*v.* To get in the way of; to interfere with the movement of.An overturned truck **impeded** the flow of traffic.**impediment** *n.* (im ped' ə mənt) An obstacle; something that gets in the way.Poor roads are an **impediment** to travel.**inevitable**  
in ev' ə tə bəl*adj.* Bound to happen; unavoidable.A certain amount of wear on even the best tires is **inevitable** with normal use.

**initiate**  
i nish' ē āt

v. 1. To put into effect; to bring into use.

The school **initiated** the new dress code on September 6.

2. To take in as a member.

The National Honor Society **initiated** thirty new members last evening.

**initiation** n. (i nish ē ā' shən) 1. The act of beginning.

The **initiation** of the new traffic plan has been delayed until the road is repaired.

2. The ceremony or process that makes one a member.

A celebration followed the **initiation** of new members into the San Francisco Film Society.

**irate**  
ī rāt'

adj. Very angry; furious.

**Irate** citizens demanded that the chemical company stop polluting the lake.

**lax**  
laks

adj. 1. Not strictly enforced; undemanding; careless.

Frequent inspections are designed to ensure that airline safety procedures have not become **lax**.

2. Not tight; loose.

When I felt the rope go **lax**, I knew that my partner had dropped the other end.

**negligent**  
neg' lə jənt

adj. Failing to take proper care of or to give proper attention to.

You were **negligent** in failing to lock the car doors.

**negligence** n. The quality, state, or act of being negligent.

When I went on vacation, my houseplants died because of my roommate's **negligence**.

**smolder**  
smōl' dər

v. 1. To burn slowly without bursting into flames.

Hot ashes **smolder** long after the flames have died down.

2. To exist in a hidden state before bursting into the open.

A desire for freedom **smoldered** in the hearts of the people who left Cuba for Miami.

**stringent**  
strin' jənt

adj. Strict; severe.

The **stringent** rules state that no exceptions can be made.

**throng**  
thrŏŋ

n. A large number of people gathered together; a crowd.

A **throng** of supporters cheered the president's arrival in Seattle.

v. To gather or move in large numbers.

Fans **thronged** into the ballpark for the first game of the World Series.