

# Lesson 9

For more practice and games, go to [www.WordlyWise3000.com](http://www.WordlyWise3000.com).



## Word List

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

**accumulate** *v.* To increase in number or amount; to pile up, collect, or gather.  
ə kyōōm' yōō lāt An inch of snow **accumulated** overnight.

**aggravate** *v.* 1. To make worse.  
ag' rə vāt The skater **aggravated** an old knee injury when she fell.  
2. To anger or annoy.  
That loud rock music from the club **aggravates** the neighbors.

**aggravation** *n.* (ag rə vā' shən) 1. Annoyance; exasperation.  
My **aggravation** increased as the noisy construction continued outside my window.

2. A source of annoyance or exasperation.  
Deer and rabbits are a continuous **aggravation** to rural gardeners.

**conserve** *v.* To save by using carefully.  
kən sər' v Lower speed limits help **conserve** gasoline.

**conservation** *n.* (kən sər vā' shən) The saving or protection of something through careful use.  
A plan for the **conservation** of open space was unveiled at the town meeting.

**contaminate** *v.* To harm by contact with something undesirable.  
kən tam' i nāt Chemicals spilled last year continue to **contaminate** the lake.

**contamination** *n.* (kən tam i nā' shən) The act of or result of contaminating.  
Salt used on the roads in winter could lead to the **contamination** of ground water.

**diminish** *v.* To make or become smaller or less; to reduce.  
di min' ish Constant violations of the housing regulations will **diminish** the quality of life for all the inhabitants.

**drastic** *adj.* Severe; extreme.  
dras' tik Evil crimes receive **drastic** punishment in this new novel.

**extravagant** *adj.* Spending, costing, or using more than is required.  
ek strə' v ə gənt Shawn's buying lunch for everyone was an **extravagant** thing to do.

**extravagance** *n.* 1. The quality of being wasteful or spending more than is necessary.  
Emma's **extravagance** in early adulthood led to poverty later.

2. A thing that costs more than one can afford.  
I admit the team jacket was an **extravagance**, but I couldn't resist buying it.

**frugal**  
frōō' gəl

*adj.* Careful in spending or using something.  
The bill for the splendid wedding ceremony shocked my **frugal** relatives.

**impurity**  
im pyōōr' ə tē

*n.* Something that is harmful or dirty.  
Filtering removes the **impurities** from water.

**peril**  
per' əl

*n.* Danger; something that is dangerous.  
The sailor understood the **peril** involved in a solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

**imperil** *v.* (im per' əl) To place in danger.  
A driver's ineptness **imperils** the passengers.

**perilous** *adj.* (per' ə ləs) Dangerous.  
An expedition into enemy territory could be **perilous**.

**perpetual**  
pər pech' ōō əl

*adj.* Lasting or seeming to last forever or for a long time; continuous.  
A **perpetual** calendar can be used year after year.

**resource**  
.rē' sōrs

*n.* 1. A supply that can be used when there is a need.  
Coal, aluminum, and lumber are natural **resources**.  
2. Skill in dealing with difficult situations.  
The committee's **resource** in working out the plan for integration is admirable.

**resourceful** *adj.* (rē sōrs' fəl) Able to deal with difficult problems.  
A **resourceful** person will triumph over difficulties.

**substitute**  
sub' stə tōōt

*v.* To replace one thing or person for another.  
Cooks sometimes **substitute** lemon for vinegar in salad dressing.

*n.* Something or someone that replaces another.  
A flutist is a **substitute** for the violinist in tonight's concert.

*adj.* Acting in place of someone or something else.  
The **substitute** teacher tolerated the class's antics.

**sustain**  
sə stān'

*v.* 1. To keep up; to support.  
Their firm belief that they would be rescued **sustained** them.

2. To suffer; to undergo.  
The driver of the wrecked car **sustained** serious injuries.

**vital**  
vit' l

*adj.* 1. Necessary for continued life or prosperity.  
Oil is **vital** to the economy of the country.

2. Full of lively spirit.  
Nelson Mandela's **vital** personality enabled him to survive years of imprisonment without bitterness.

3. Of the greatest importance.  
It is **vital** that an official attend to the transfer immediately.