



Word List

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

aloft *adv.* Up in the air, especially in flight.
ə lôft' A strong breeze kept the kites **aloft**.

attain *v.* 1. To reach; to arrive at.
ə tăn' Redwood trees **attain** heights of over 300 feet.
2. To achieve.
The library **attained** its lofty goal of raising ten thousand dollars for the repair fund.

buffet *n.* 1. A piece of furniture with drawers and shelves for the storage and display of plates, dishes, and bowls.
bə fâ' This splendid antique **buffet** contains a valuable collection of china.
2. A meal laid out for guests to help themselves.
The abundance of food at the **buffet** allowed people to go back for second or third helpings.
v. (buf' ət) To pound repeatedly; to batter.
High winds and waves **buffeted** the ship during the storm.

elude *v.* To escape by being quick or clever.
ē lōōd' The mouse **eluded** the cat by slipping through a crack in the wall.
elusive *adj.* (ē lōō' sīv) 1. Hard to find or capture.
The **elusive** outlaws were familiar with the terrain while those pursuing them were not.
2. Hard to explain or make clear.
Albert Einstein's connection between energy and the speed of light is too **elusive** for most nonscientists to grasp.

flammable *adj.* Able to catch fire easily.
flam' ə bəl Children's night clothes must be fireproofed so they are not **flammable**.

hover *v.* To remain in place over an object or location.
huv' ər Hummingbirds **hover** by beating their wings sixty times a second.

inflate *v.* To fill with air or other gas.
in flāt' **Inflate** the tires to the correct pressure.

jeopardy
jep' ə r dē

n. Danger.

Mountaineers who climb without partners put their lives in **jeopardy**.

jeopardize *v.* To put in danger of loss or injury.

Smokers **jeopardize** their health by smoking cigarettes.

moor

moor

v. To hold in place with ropes or anchors.

After the sailors **moored** the boat to the dock, they went ashore.

mooring *n.* A place to which a boat or aircraft can be moored.

The hurricane tore many boats from their **moorings**.

plummet

plum' ə t

v. To fall suddenly toward the earth or to a lower level; to plunge.

The abundant harvest caused the price of corn to **plummet**.

pollute

pə lōōt'

v. To make impure or dirty.

Smoke from cars' engines **pollutes** the air of our cities.

pollution *n.* (pə lōō' shən) The action of polluting; the state of being polluted.

The careless dumping of poisonous chemicals caused widespread **pollution** of the soil.

propel

prə pel'

v. To push or drive forward.

Two engines **propelled** the speedboat.

stationary

stā' shə ner ē

adj. 1. Not moving.

A **stationary** bicycle is used for exercise.

2. Not changing.

The price of admission to the ball park has remained **stationary** for the past couple of years.

superb

sōō pərb'

adj. Of the highest quality; grand; splendid.

The view from the mountaintop was **superb**.

swivel

swiv' ə l

n. A fastening that allows any part joined to it to swing freely.

This chair has a **swivel** that enables it to turn in a full circle.

v. To turn freely around a fixed point.

Owls can **swivel** their heads to look behind them.