



## Word List

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

**admonish**  
ad mən' ish

*v.* 1. To warn.  
Rescue workers **admonished** us to stay away from the flooding river.  
2. To criticize gently.  
The coach **admonished** me for missing practice.

**admonition** *n.* (ad mə nish' ən) A warning.  
We remembered our parents' **admonition** to stay close to shore while swimming.

**aghast**  
ə gast'

*adj.* Struck with horror; shocked.  
We were **aghast** at the photographs of starving children in Africa.

**annihilate**  
ə nī' ə lāt

*v.* To destroy completely; to reduce to utter ruin.  
General Custer's army of over 200 men was **annihilated** at the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

**benefactor**  
ben' ə fak tər

*n.* A person who provides help, especially by giving money.  
People who donated more than \$100 were listed as **benefactors** of the library.

**bestow**  
bē stō'

*v.* To give as an honor; to present as a gift.  
An Academy Award is the highest honor Hollywood can **bestow** on a film.

**devious**  
dē' vē əs

*adj.* 1. Having many twists and turns; winding.  
The climbers followed a **devious** route up the mountain.  
2. Sneaky; not frank or honest.  
This **devious** scheme was intended to take advantage of vulnerable people.

**devoid**  
də void'

*adj.* Lacking; empty; entirely without.  
Although he had experienced great misfortune, he was **devoid** of bitterness.

**heed**  
hēd

*v.* To pay attention to.  
I hope you will **heed** my advice.  
*n.* Attention; notice.  
Pay **heed** to the teacher's instructions before you begin the test.

**heedful** *adj.* Paying careful attention.  
**Heedful** of the fog, I drove slowly.

**heedless** *adj.* Failing to pay proper attention.  
They went ahead with their plans, **heedless** of our objections.

**mortal**  
môrt' l

*n.* A human being, especially as contrasted with a god.  
Achilles, a hero in Greek mythology, had a goddess for a mother and a **mortal** for a father.

*adj.* 1. Of or relating to human beings.  
Being **mortal**, he accepted the fact that one day he would die.

2. Causing death; fatal.  
India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi received a **mortal** wound delivered by an assassin in 1984.

3. Very severe.  
My friend wouldn't go into the reptile house because he has a **mortal** fear of snakes.

**muse**  
myōōz

*v.* To think about in a quiet, careful way.  
I **mused** over whether to sell the house.

**pioneer**  
pī ə nir'

*n.* A person who goes before others and opens the way for them to follow.  
Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two nineteenth-century women, were **pioneers** in the women's rights movement.

*v.* To open the way for others.  
Isadora Duncan **pioneered** modern dance.

**plague**  
plāg

*n.* 1. A deadly disease that spreads rapidly from person to person.  
Those Londoners who could afford it fled to the country to escape the great **plague** of 1665.

2. Anything that causes destruction or suffering.  
A **plague** of locusts destroyed the crop.

*v.* To cause suffering or distress.  
After the tryouts, I was **plagued** by doubts that I would make the varsity team.

**subside**  
səb sīd'

*v.* 1. To sink to a lower level.  
After the rain stopped, the floodwaters gradually **subsided**.

2. To become quieter or less active.  
The baby's sobs gradually **subsided**.

**unwitting**  
un wīt' in

*adj.* Not done on purpose; unintended.  
I tried to ignore the **unwitting** insult, but his comment hurt me just the same.

**wrath**  
rath

*n.* Forceful anger; fury.  
It says in the Bible that envy and **wrath** shorten life.

**wrathful** *adj.* Very angry.  
In Homer's story of the Trojan War, a **wrathful** Achilles seeks revenge on the killer of his friend Patroclus.