



## Word List

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

**ballast**  
bal' əst*n.* Heavy material used to make a ship steady or control the rising and falling of a vessel like a balloon.The hot air balloon rose when the water used as **ballast** was let go.**buoyant**  
boi' ənt*adj.* 1. Able to float.The life jackets are **buoyant** enough to support a 200-pound person.

2. Cheerful and carefree.

The students were in a **buoyant** mood on the last day of school.**buoyancy** *n.* The ability to float.The **buoyancy** of helium balloons causes them to rise rapidly.**clamber**  
klam' bər*v.* To climb awkwardly.I **clambered** onto the roof to get the kite.**detach**  
dē tach'*v.* To separate from.I **detached** the upper portion of the bill and returned it with my payment.**detached** *adj.* 1. Not connected.The house comes with a **detached** garage.

2. Lacking concern; not taking sides.

I tried to stay **detached** from my friends' quarrel.**eerie**  
ir' ē*adj.* Causing uneasiness; strange or mysterious.The **eerie** sound you heard was just an owl hooting.**fathom**  
fath' əm*n.* A length of six feet, used in measuring the depth of water.The wreck of the Spanish ship lay in thirty **fathoms** of water.*v.* To figure out; to understand.We could not **fathom** how the magician made the goldfish disappear.**pique**  
pēk*v.* To arouse or excite.Pandora's curiosity was **piqued** by the mysterious box that she was not supposed to open.*n.* A feeling of resentment caused by being ignored, insulted, etc.It was the scientist's **pique** at not being invited to take part in the experiment that caused him to write that derogatory article about it.**ultimate**  
ul' tə mət*adj.* 1. Final.Anwar's **ultimate** goal is to be chief of surgery at a teaching hospital.

2. The greatest possible; maximum.

The producer has **ultimate** control over the movie.*n.* Something that is the greatest; the maximum.The ads claim that this soap is the **ultimate** in cleaning products.

**probe** v. 1. To poke or prod.  
I **probed** the snow with my ski pole to determine how deep it was.  
2. To examine closely.  
The *Odyssey* space craft was launched in 2001 to **probe** the surface of the planet Mars.  
*n.* 1. A long, slender instrument used to examine a wound or part of the body.  
The doctor used a **probe** to look for fragments of glass in the wound.  
2. A thorough investigation.  
The police **probe** into illegal gambling led to twelve arrests.

**realize** v. 1. To be aware of.  
I didn't **realize** how astute you were until you came up with that brilliant idea.  
2. To bring into being; to make happen.  
I **realized** a lifelong dream by going skydiving.

**rupture** v. To split or break.  
Frost **ruptured** the water pipe, flooding the basement.  
*n.* 1. A breaking or tearing apart by force.  
The earthquake caused a **rupture** in the highway that took three months to repair.  
2. The breaking of a friendly relationship.  
The **rupture** between Cuba and the United States began when Fidel Castro seized control of the island.

**sphere** *n.* 1. An object with all points on its surface equally distant from its center; a ball or globe.  
The earth is not quite a **sphere** because it is flattened at the poles.  
2. An area of power, influence, or activity.  
The 1823 Monroe Doctrine extended the United States' **sphere** of influence throughout the Americas.  
**spherical** *adj.* Of or relating to the shape of a sphere.  
The **spherical** lamp threw light in all directions.

**submerge** v. 1. To go underwater.  
From the shore, we could see the dolphins jump and then **submerge**.  
2. To put underwater or cover with water.  
The tide **submerges** the rocks when it is high.

**tedious** *adj.* Seeming to go on for a long time; boring.  
The lecture was so **tedious** that I nearly fell asleep.  
**tedium** *n.* Boredom.  
We tried to relieve the **tedium** of our long drive by telling jokes.

**unscathed** *adj.* Completely unharmed.  
Because of its sturdy construction, the house survived the hurricane **unscathed**.