

Word List

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

- abduct**
ab dukt' v. To carry away by force; to kidnap.
Bandits stopped the jeep and **abducted** the driver.
- abduction** n. The act or instance of abducting.
According to Greek myth, the **abduction** of Helen was the cause of the Trojan War.
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- abode**
ə bōd' n. The place where one lives; home.
My summer **abode** was a small cabin that I shared with two other camp counselors.
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- abyss**
ə bis' n. 1. A deep opening in the earth.
We were afraid to look down as we crossed the **abyss** on a swaying rope bridge.
2. Anything too deep to measure.
The Hubble space telescope was built to probe the **abyss** of space.
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- arbitrate**
är' bi trät' v. To settle a disagreement between two parties by having a third party make a decision after hearing both sides.
The United Nations will **arbitrate** the border dispute between the two countries.
- arbitration** n. (är bi trä' shən) The act of arbitrating.
By agreeing to **arbitration**, management and workers hope to avoid a strike.
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- attribute**
ə trib' yōōt' v. To think of as coming from or belonging to a particular person or thing.
The painting was wrongly **attributed** to Mary Cassatt, America's foremost Impressionist artist.
n. (ə' tri byōōt) A quality or feature associated with a person or thing.
Wisdom is often considered an **attribute** of old age.
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- capricious**
kə prish' əs' adj. Likely to change quickly for no obvious reason.
Robert Frost wrote an amusing poem about the **capricious** New England weather.
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- orbit**
ōr' bit' n. The path taken by an object around a heavenly body such as a star, planet, or moon.
The moon's **orbit** around the earth takes just over 27 days.
v. To put into or be in orbit.
In 1961, the Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to **orbit** the earth.
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- sacred**
sā' krəd' adj. 1. Holy; having to do with religion.
The Western Wall in Jerusalem is **sacred** to the Jewish people.
2. Worthy of being given the greatest honor or respect.
The engaged couple asserted that they consider marriage vows to be **sacred**.

compromise
kəm' prə mīz

v. 1. To settle a disagreement by having each side give up something.
We **compromised** by splitting the difference between the \$2,000 asking price of the car and the \$1,500 offer I made for it.

2. To expose to the possibility of criticism or shame.
The manager will not **compromise** the restaurant's reputation by tolerating poor service to diners.

n. A settlement reached by each side giving up something.
The **compromise** required me to work late on Fridays so that I could have Saturdays off.

devout
də vout'

adj. 1. Very religious.
Devout Muslims try to make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca.

2. Sincere.
I am a **devout** believer in the healing power of the mind.

distraught
di strôt'

adj. Deeply disturbed; very troubled.
The children were **distraught** when their pet rabbit died.

enlighten
en lit' n

v. To inform or instruct; to give knowledge or truth to.
Since we didn't know the store's policy for returning merchandise, we asked customer service to **enlighten** us.

enlightened *adj.* Free from ignorance or prejudice.
This day-care center takes an **enlightened** approach to early childhood education.

incline
in klīn'

v. 1. To slope or lean.
Instead of being vertical, the post **inclines** slightly to the left.

2. To be likely to; to have a fondness for.
I am **inclined** to talk too much.

3. To bend or bow (the head).
I **inclined** my head so that the barber could trim the back of my neck.

n. (in' klīn) A sloping surface.
The summer house lay at the top of a grassy **incline**.

intervene
in tər vēn'

v. To enter in order to help or settle something.
The playground supervisor **intervened** when the children couldn't agree about whose turn it was.

intervention *n.* (in tər vēn' shən) The act or instance of intervening.
The talk show host's timely **intervention** kept the discussion from becoming too heated.

necessity
nə ses' ə tē

n. 1. Anything that cannot be done without or that is greatly needed.
Insect repellent is a **necessity** when camping.

2. The condition of being needed.
I don't see the **necessity** for taking separate cars.