



Word List

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

allege
ə lej'*v.* To state as a fact but without offering proof.The police **allege** that the two teenagers took the car without permission.**alleged** *adj.* Claimed to be true.
This is the **alleged** troublemaker.**allegation** *n.* (al ə gā' shən) Something that is alleged.Our neighbor claimed that my brother was the boy who broke his window, but he could not provide proof to back up his **allegation**.**conclusive**
kən klōō' sīv*adj.* Putting an end to doubt; convincing.The cancelled check was **conclusive** proof that the bicycle had been paid for.**counterpart**
koun' tər pärt*n.* A person or thing that is similar to another.The British prime minister is the **counterpart** of the American president.**dismal**
diz' mäl*adj.* 1. Dark or extremely gloomy.The **dismal** weather kept us inside for most of our vacation at the beach.

2. Causing misery or sadness; depressing.

The **dismal** conditions in Haiti forced many to flee their homeland.**enthrall**
en thräl'*v.* To hold the attention of as though under a spell.The acrobats on the trapeze **enthralled** the circus audience.**enthralling** *adj.* Having the power to enthrall.The children listened for over an hour to the storyteller's **enthralling** tales.**exotic**
eg zät' ik*adj.* Fascinating because of being very different from the ordinary.Rare orchids and other **exotic** flowers decorated the tables at the wedding.**incredulous**
in krej' ə ləs*adj.* 1. Doubtful; skeptical.The teacher was **incredulous** when the student claimed to have read the novel in two hours.

2. Showing disbelief.

My friend gave me an **incredulous** look when I said I had seen a flying saucer.**incredulity** *n.* (in krə dyōō' lə tē) Doubt or disbelief.My father gave me a look of **incredulity** when I said I had asked for extra homework.

legendary
lej' ən der ē

adj. 1. Well-known; famous and much talked about over a long period of time. Harriet Tubman, who led more than 300 slaves to freedom, is a **legendary** figure in American history.
2. Relating to a story (usually untrue) handed down from the past. Paul Bunyan, the **legendary** lumberjack of fantastic size and strength, is the hero of many "tall tales."

lurk
lɜrk

v. To prowl or lie hidden, as though about to attack. The farmer frightened away the fox that **lurked** by the henhouse.

menagerie
mə naj' ə r ē

n. A collection of animals kept in cages for showing to the public. The owner of the **menagerie** assured us that the animals were well cared for.

naive
nä ēv'

adj. 1. Inexperienced; ready to accept without analyzing. I was **naive** to believe that sending off the coupon would win me a free vacation in Hawaii.
2. Simple in a childlike way; innocent. Even though he is nine years old, he maintains a **naive** belief in the tooth fairy.

pander
pan' dər

v. To give or promise what is wanted in order to please someone. I believe that she **panders** to students by giving them better grades than they deserve.

plausible
plô' zə bəl

adj. Seeming to be true but not necessarily so. Lin Shao's explanation of why she was late seems **plausible**, so I'll accept it.

preposterous
prē pās' tər əs

adj. Too absurd to be believed; ridiculous. You cannot believe this **preposterous** newspaper story that a six-month-old baby speaks three languages.

scrupulous
skrōō' pyə ləs

adj. 1. Marked by close attention to the smallest detail. The treasurer kept a **scrupulous** record of all moneys received and paid out.
2. Acting in a correct and honest manner. The children were **scrupulous** in the way they divided the money from the lemonade stand.