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Recommended for grade 4

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benefit  
v. To help or be helpful to; to be useful to.  
[That preschool program benefits young children.]  

n. 1. Something that is useful or helpful, that does good, sometimes as part of a job contract.  
[One of the benefits of my exercise program is that I sleep better.]  
2. An event held to raise money for a cause.  
[The library’s benefit raised enough money for a new children’s room.]  

complete  
adj. 1. Having no missing parts; whole.  
[She bought a complete set of woodworking tools at a yard sale.]  
2. Finished.  
[The new wing on the high school is now complete.]  

v. To finish.  
[Schubert did not complete his eighth symphony, so it’s nicknamed “The Unfinished.”]  

develop  
v. 1. To go through a process of growth.  
[Running regularly develops strong leg muscles.]  
2. To bring or come into being.  
[The day after I brushed against the poison ivy, a rash developed on my leg.]  
3. To apply chemicals to photographic film to bring out the picture.  
[I want to learn to develop my own pictures.]  

dismay  
v. To cause feelings of fear, worry, or surprise.  
[A large crack in the ceiling of our newly painted kitchen dismayed my parents.]  

n. A sudden loss of courage because of fear or worry.  
[Just after we began hiking, we were filled with dismay when we heard the rumble of a rockslide.]  

dis-maY  

ease  
n. A state of being comfortable—without worry, pain, or trouble.  
[Since I took a course in public speaking, I feel much more at ease when I give a speech.]  

v. To make less worried, pained, or troubled.  
[It eased my mind to hear you were safe.]  

eaze  

hail  
n. Small lumps of frozen rain.  
[The hail bouncing off the metal roof of the garage made a terrible racket.]  

v. 1. To fall as frozen rain.  
[My father’s corn plants suffered a lot of damage when it hailed yesterday.]  
2. To greet or welcome, usually with admiration.  
[The band played “Hail to the Chief” as the president came in.]  

hâl  

lack  
v. To be without.  
[He never sees the funny side of things because he lacks a sense of humor.]  

n. A shortage.  
[A lack of money to pay the staff forced our library to close on weekends.]  
lak
master
adj. Chief; main.
[Throw the master switch to turn on the power.]
v. To become skilled at.
[My mother mastered the new computer program in just a few weeks.]
patriot
n. One who loves, supports, and is loyal to his or her country.
[Giuseppe Garibaldi was an Italian patriot who fought tirelessly to unite his country.]
patriotic (pä trē′ ā tīk) adj. Having or showing love of one’s country.
[“America the Beautiful” is a patriotic song that was written by Katherine Lee Bates.]
patriotism n. Love of one’s country.
[Some people show their patriotism by proudly flying their country’s flag.]
project
n. A plan or idea for doing something.
[My science project is going to show what acid rain does to plants.]
v. (prē jekt′) 1. To stick out.
[Nails are still projecting out of the new floor, so be careful where you walk.]
2. To cause an image to be shown on a screen.
[This machine projects color slides but not movies.]
recommend
v. 1. To make a statement of praise.
[I loved the Secret Garden and I highly recommend it.]
2. To give advice; to suggest.
[Dentists usually recommend that you have a checkup twice a year.]
remark
v. To say; to make a comment.
[My grandmother remarked on how well I looked.]
n. Something said; a comment.
[When no one else could think of anything to say, I made a remark about how badly we needed rain.]
remarkable adj. Deserving of being noticed; unusual.
[For such a young child, he had remarkable strength.]
represent
v. 1. To stand for or in place of.
[Three dots represent the letter “S” in the Morse code.]
2. To act in place of.
[Each state in the U.S. elects two senators to represent it in Congress.]
sufficient
adj. Enough to fill a need.
[Ten lessons on the oboe were sufficient to earn me a place in the school band.]
utter
v. To make sounds with the voice; to speak.
[Please don’t utter another word.]
Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from the word list. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) a useful aid. (c) Dismay is
   (b) Hail is (d) frozen rain.

2. (a) A remarkable plan is (c) one that will probably fail.
   (b) the main one. (d) A master plan is

3. (a) a place to relax. (c) A benefit is
   (b) an event that raises money. (d) A patriot is

4. (a) A complete picture is one that is (c) very unusual.
   (b) A remarkable picture is one that is (d) not easy to see.

5. (a) to bring it to an end. (c) to make it grow.
   (b) To develop something is (d) To ease something is

6. (a) to control it. (c) To utter something is
   (b) To complete something is (d) to say it.

7. (a) stand in for him or her. (c) To represent someone is to
   (b) invite him or her. (d) To recommend someone is to

8. (a) To lack food (c) is to have more than enough.
   (b) To have sufficient food (d) is to have enough.

9. (a) to show it on a screen. (c) To recommend a picture is
   (b) to change it slightly. (d) To project a picture is
Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the italicized phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from the word list.

1. I sensed a total absence of enthusiasm when I suggested that we climb Mount Monadnock.

2. Martha Graham brought into being a new style of dance in America.

3. The bookshelf sticks out too far into the room and has to be made narrower.

4. I took a hot bath to help to take away the pain in my aching muscles.

5. Olga Ramirez expects her novel to be at a point where no further work is necessary by the end of the week.

6. My uncle became very skilled at speaking French after spending a year in France.

7. In English the letter “c” stands in place of two different sounds.

8. Young children are helped a great deal from being read to every day.

9. The article ended with a reminder that there is more to showing love of one’s country than flying your country’s flag.

10. The news that the last train had just left worried and distressed us.

11. The track coach gave me the suggestion that I warm up before starting my run.
Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might fill someone with dismay?
   (a) losing ten dollars  
   (b) finding ten dollars  
   (c) finding a staple in a tuna sandwich  
   (d) finding celery in a tuna sandwich

2. Which of the following might put someone at ease?
   (a) a friendly smile  
   (b) a “Keep Out” sign  
   (c) a warm welcome  
   (d) a promise to help

3. Which of the following might be hailed by people?
   (a) a train crash  
   (b) a cure for a disease  
   (c) a popular president  
   (d) rain after a long dry spell

4. Which of the following is a complete sentence and needs a period?
   (a) I’m cold  
   (b) Let’s go  
   (c) The bus for Toledo  
   (d) My hockey puck

5. A rich person could lack which of the following?
   (a) money  
   (b) freedom  
   (c) time  
   (d) good health

6. Which of the following could mean a person is patriotic?
   (a) making money  
   (b) having a hobby  
   (c) voting in elections  
   (d) serving one’s country

7. Which of the following is a remark?
   (a) You look tired.  
   (b) 2 + 2 = 4  
   (c) What on earth are you doing?  
   (d) A B C D

8. Which of the following represent other people?
   (a) state senators  
   (b) taxi drivers  
   (c) storekeepers  
   (d) lawyers
Completing the Thought

Read each sentence below and fill in the blank with the correct word (or a form of the word) from the word list.

1. Jennifer can fly for half price because she works for an airline. Half-price travel is one of her ________________.

2. Nebraska plans to spend six million dollars building a new bridge over the Platte River. The new bridge is a state ________________.

3. Yehudi Menuhin was one of the greatest violin players who ever lived. As a child, he was unusually talented, and ________________ the violin at a very early age.

4. Leslie answered all the questions on the test and still had time to check her answers. She ________________ the test with time to spare.

5. The Changs decided to try the Golden Grill because their friends told them that the food there was delicious. They went there because their friends ________________ it.

6. The white-haired man sitting next to her told Marie that she reminded him of his favorite granddaughter. This ________________ made Marie happy.

7. Tony’s gas level was low when he got on the expressway. He was afraid he would not have ________________ gas to get home.

8. Jamile remained silent when she was asked where her friend was staying. She did not ________________ a sound.

9. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson disagreed on many things, but both had the best interests of the United States at heart. They were both ________________.

10. The afternoon was dark and cold; the rain was beginning to freeze. Soon we could hear the plink-plink of the ________________.
SEQUOYA’S GIFT

Sequoya was a remarkable man—a silversmith, painter, and soldier who is famous because he is the only person in history known to have invented a complete alphabet.

Sequoya was a member of the Cherokee nation, the son of a Native American mother and a British father. A patriotic person, he was dismayed that white people were taking over more and more of the Cherokee lands.

There was no easy way for Cherokees to be in touch with each other because they lacked a written language. Words spoken in Cherokee were lost as soon as they were uttered. Sequoya believed that the Cherokee people would benefit greatly if they had a written language and could read and write. Then newspapers could spread the word of what was happening to people, and books could record their history. He made up his mind that he would try to develop a written language for his people.

The project, which he began in 1809, took twelve years to complete. He and his daughter worked together. She carefully sounded out each syllable, and Sequoya represented it with a letter that he chose from the English, Greek, and Hebrew alphabets. Eighty-six letters were sufficient to cover all the sounds of the Cherokee language.

Sequoya used this new written language in a message he sent to the leaders of the Cherokee nation. The leaders were impressed with how simple the system was, and they recommended that the new written language be taught to everyone who wanted to learn to read and write. People liked it because it could be learned quickly and with ease, and those who mastered it went on to teach others. The Cherokees set up schools to teach Sequoya’s alphabet and began to publish books and newspapers in their new language. The first Native American newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix, was published on February 21, 1828. It was followed by a flood of other newspapers and books.

In his later years, Sequoya travelled throughout North America studying other Native American languages. Everywhere he went he was hailed for his invention, which played such an important part in uniting the Cherokee people. He died in 1843. His memory is honored in California’s giant sequoia trees, and its beautiful Sequoia National Park.
SEQUOYA’S GIFT

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word, use a vocabulary word in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. How can we tell that Sequoya was patriotic?

2. What is the meaning of utter as used in the narrative?

3. Why weren’t any books written in Cherokee before 1821?

4. How did Sequoya feel about what the white settlers were doing?

5. What is the meaning of develop as it is used in the narrative?

6. How did Sequoya use the English, Greek and Hebrew alphabets?

7. Our alphabet has twenty-six letters. Why wasn’t that number sufficient for the Cherokee alphabet?

8. How long did Sequoya’s work take?

9. Did Sequoya work on his project alone or did he have help?

10. Why was the new language popular with the people?
11. How can we tell that the Cherokee leaders liked the new system?

12. What is the meaning of **hailed** as it is used in the narrative?

13. How did the Cherokees help each other learn the new language?

14. What was **remarkable** about Sequoya?

15. How does a written language **benefit** friends living far apart?

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**WORDLY WISE**

The Latin *bene* means “good” or “well” and forms a root of the word **benefit**. A *benefit* is something that is good for a person. Other words formed from this root include *benevolent*, which means “having a wish to do good” and *beneficial*, which means “doing good; being of help.”

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Some people, the Germans, for example, think of their country as a father and call it the fatherland; in fact, the word **patriot** comes from the Latin *pater*, which means “father.” People of other countries, including Americans, think of their country not as the fatherland but as the motherland. If English had used the Latin word for mother, which is *mater*, instead of the word for father, what would we call a person with a deep love of country?

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

*In addition to its meaning as a verb, **utter** is also an adjective and means “total” or “absolute.” [When the cellar door slammed shut behind us, we were left in **utter** darkness.]; [I felt like an **utter** fool when the bike I had reported stolen was found just where I had left it.]*

* A matriot.