

WORDLY WISE

3000

Book **4**



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Recommended for grade 7

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Lesson 13

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

arduous
är' joo əs

adj. Requiring much effort; very difficult.
[Frequent sandstorms made the *arduous* trek across the Sahara Desert even more difficult.]

canny
kan' ē

adj. Shrewd and careful; watchful of one's own interests.
[A *canny* businessperson can make a profit even in the worst of times.]

climax
klī' maks

n. The highest point; the greatest moment or event.
[Slugger Norris's winning home run in the World Series was a terrific *climax* to the season.]

endorse
en dōrs'

v. 1. To sign the back of a check before cashing or depositing it.
[The bank teller wouldn't cash my check until I had *endorsed* it.]
2. To approve of; to support.
[Newspapers often *endorse* candidates for public office.]
3. To be favorably associated with a product in return for payment.
[Some well-known athletes are paid millions of dollars to *endorse* products on television.]

exuberant
eg zōō' bər ənt

adj. Happy and excited; bubbling over with enthusiasm.
[Our friends gave us an *exuberant* welcome at the airport.]
exuberance *n.* The quality of being exuberant.
[The steady rain could not dampen the *exuberance* of fans gathered for the rock festival.]

intrepid
in trep' id

adj. Feeling or showing no fear; brave; courageous.
[The *intrepid* astronauts brought their crippled *Apollo 13* spacecraft safely back to earth.]

kindle
kin' dəl

v. 1. To start burning.
[A spark from the wood stove *kindled* some oily rags and started the fire.]
2. To cause to become excited or stirred up.
[The museum's exhibition of Navaho pottery *kindled* my interest in the Southwest.]
kindling *n.* (kind' liŋ) Sticks used to start a fire.
[There were plenty of dry twigs to provide *kindling* for the campfire.]

lucrative
loo' krə tiv

adj. Producing wealth or profit.
[I invested some of the money I had inherited in what sounded like a *lucrative* deal.]

mentor
men' tər

n. A wise and loyal friend and adviser.
[As president of the college she founded, Mary McLeod Bethune was *mentor* to many young Black women.]

obsession
əb sesh' ən

n. An interest, idea, or feeling that fills one's mind and leaves little room for anything else.
[Finishing her second novel has become an *obsession* with her and leaves her little time for other activities.]

personable
pɜr' sən ə bəl

adj. Pleasing in manner and appearance.
[The hotel's *personable* staff made our stay a pleasant one.]

proficient
prō fish' ənt

adj. Able to do something very well; skillful.
[All the mechanics in this garage are *proficient* in car repairing.]
proficiency *n.* The quality of being proficient.
[My cousin's *proficiency* in Japanese enabled her to make many friends in Tokyo.]

scanty
skan' tē

adj. Not enough or just barely enough; small in size or amount.
[After a *scanty* meal of a bread roll and an apple, we continued our journey.]

strait
strāt

n. 1. A narrow body of water connecting two larger ones.
[The *Strait* of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.]
2. **straits** Trouble or need.
[When both parents lost their jobs, the family was in desperate *straits*.]

zest
zest

n. Great enjoyment of; excitement.
[Learning to scuba dive added *zest* to our Caribbean vacation.]
zestful *adj.* Full of zest.
[During the second week of my new exercise program, I awoke each day feeling *zestful* and ready for a five-mile run.]

13A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 13. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A strait is (c) an idea that takes over one's mind.
(b) a fear without a known cause. (d) An obsession is
-

2. (a) An exuberant person (c) A canny person
(b) is one who is brave. (d) is one who seldom makes mistakes.
-

3. (a) one that is difficult. (c) A lucrative task is
(b) An arduous task is (d) one that is done without payment.
-

4. (a) to make it work. (c) To endorse something is
(b) To kindle something is (d) to sign the back of it.
-

5. (a) a narrow channel of water. (c) a narrow ledge of rock.
(b) A strait is (d) A climax is
-

6. (a) wood used to start a fire. (c) Kindling is
(b) Zest is (d) support for a person or a cause.
-
7. (a) A climax is (c) a person who is vulnerable.
(b) A mentor is (d) a wise teacher.
-
8. (a) keen enjoyment. (c) Zest is
(b) Proficiency is (d) the absence of fear.
-
9. (a) in short supply. (c) If something is lucrative, it is
(b) seriously defective. (d) If something is scanty, it is
-
10. (a) Exuberance is (c) a state of great need.
(b) Proficiency is (d) a state of excitement.
-

13B Just the Right Word

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 Word List 13.

- Getting a telescope *got me excited and stirred up* my interest in astronomy.
- In this course, students must demonstrate *that they have reached a certain level of skill* in both drawing and painting.
- Firefighters need to be *unafraid of physical danger* but cannot take foolish risks.
- This year's citrus crop will be *much smaller than usual* because of the frost damage in Florida.
- The *greatest event* of Navratilova's career was her ninth Wimbledon singles victory in 1990.
- My mother is *a trusted friend and wise adviser* to several young ballerinas.

7. Terry's part-time baked goods business turned out to be quite *rewarding in a financial way*.
8. The new television announcer is extremely *pleasing both in manner and appearance*.
9. What is the name of the *narrow body of water* that separates Spain from North Africa?
10. Will the students' parents *give their support* to the proposal to do away with the sports program?

13C Applying Meanings

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

1. Which of the following might describe someone who is *personable*?

(a) ruthless	(c) astute
(b) industrious	(d) haughty
2. Which of the following can reach a *climax*?

(a) a game	(c) a painting
(b) a novel	(d) a movie
3. Which of the following could be *endorsed*?

(a) a candidate	(c) athletic equipment
(b) a check	(d) a proposal
4. Which of the following can be *kindled*?

(a) firewood	(c) curiosity
(b) enthusiasm	(d) negligence
5. Which of the following might be a good *mentor*?

(a) an illustrious person	(c) a person devoid of good sense
(b) a devious person	(d) a candid person
6. Which of the following would show a *zest* for learning?

(a) reading books	(c) watching cartoons
(b) asking questions	(d) dropping out of school
7. Which of the following can be *exuberant*?

(a) a reprimand	(c) a person
(b) a welcome	(d) a compromise
8. Which of the following might become an *obsession*?

(a) indifference	(c) food
(b) another person	(d) exercise

13D Word Relationships

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---|---|
| 1. ARDUOUS | EASY | | |
| LUCRATIVE | EERIE | S | A |
| 2. PROFICIENT | PLENTIFUL | | |
| SCANTY | BLATANT | S | A |
| 3. PROFITABLE | LUCRATIVE | | |
| DEVOUT | PROFICIENT | S | A |
| 4. CANNY | GLOOMY | | |
| EXUBERANT | NIMBLE | S | A |
| 5. PROFICIENT | PROSTRATE | | |
| SKILLFUL | INTREPID | S | A |
| 6. ASTUTE | PERSONABLE | | |
| CANNY | LACKING | S | A |
| 7. COWARDLY | PERSONABLE | | |
| FOOLISH | INTREPID | S | A |

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

8. ZESTFUL : ENTHUSIASM ::
 (a) menial : work (c) negligent : vigilance
 (b) acrid : smoke (d) blithe : joy
9. STRAITS : HELP ::
 (a) sphere : shape (c) tedium : excitement
 (b) citrus : fruit (d) throng : congestion
10. ENDORSE : REPRIMAND ::
 (a) initiate : begin (c) placate : gratify
 (b) bestow : withdraw (d) smolder : burn

13E Narrative

Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows.

AMERICA'S FIRST LADY OF THE SKY

In 1917, Amelia Earhart was working as a nurse's helper in Canada, caring for pilots wounded in the First World War. Their stories **kindled** an interest in flying in the nineteen-year-old girl, and so after the war she took lessons and became a **proficient** pilot. As soon as she had saved enough money, she bought her own plane and soon broke the women's altitude record, taking her tiny biplane up to 14,000 feet. By that time, flying had become an **obsession**. Earhart's **zest** for adventure led her to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She also became the first person to make the perilous solo flight from Hawaii to California after previous attempts had claimed the lives of ten pilots.

In 1931, she married publisher George Putnam. A **canny** businessman, Putnam acted as his wife's manager and was her **mentor** in the ways of business. In addition to being world famous for her exploits in the air, Earhart was **personable** and enjoyed being in the spotlight. This made it easy for Putnam to promote her activities. He published the books she wrote and got her contracts with advertisers to **endorse** products. He also set up **lucrative** speaking tours in which Earhart talked not only about flying but also about other issues important to her such as women's rights and world peace. The money they earned in these ways was used to help meet the high costs of buying and maintaining Earhart's aircraft.

On June 1, 1937, at the age of thirty-nine, Earhart took off in a twin-engine Lockheed Electra on a round-the-world flight. Accomplishing this long-term goal was to be the **climax** of her career. The event, which began by heading east from California, attracted worldwide interest, and **exuberant** crowds greeted her at every stop of the flight, eager to catch a glimpse of the **intrepid** flier. On the morning of July 2, she took off on the most **arduous** leg of the journey, a 2,500-mile flight from New Guinea to tiny Howland Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Twenty hours into the flight, having covered most of the journey, Earhart radioed that she was running out of fuel. She never made it to Howland Island. Massive air and sea rescue missions produced no clues as to her fate.

Amelia Earhart's disappearance remained a complete mystery for over fifty years. Then, in 1992, searchers found part of a shoe that may have belonged to Earhart together with some scraps of aluminum, possibly from her plane, on Nikumaroro Island, 500 miles south of Howland Island. The plane could have crash-landed there when it ran out of fuel. If this is indeed what happened, Earhart and her navigator would have been in desperate **straits** and could not have survived more than a few days. Temperatures on the island reach 120 degrees. They would have had only a

scanty supply of water on board, and there was none on the island. Their bodies, and the remains of the plane, would have been swept out to sea in a relatively short time. Is this what actually happened to Amelia Earhart? It is a likely explanation, but we will probably never know for sure.

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. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words) from this lesson's word list.

1. Why would Earhart have been successful as a television personality?

2. What led Earhart to buy her own plane?

3. How might her flying instructor have rated Earhart?

4. What is the meaning of **endorse** as it is used in the narrative?

5. What qualification did George Putnam have to manage Earhart's career?

6. How did the various deals that Putnam set up help Earhart?

7. What two important roles did Putnam play in Earhart's life?

8. What is the meaning of **kindled** as it is used in the narrative?

9. Why must Earhart have felt **exuberant** when she flew solo across the Atlantic?

10. Why was the 1937 round-the-world flight so important to Earhart?

11. Why did the flight from New Guinea to Howland Island require special care?

12. What would have made thirst a particular problem for the stranded flyers?

13. What is the meaning of **straits** as it is used in the narrative?

14. What led Earhart to engage in her dangerous exploits?

15 Why would *timid* not be an appropriate word to describe Earhart?

WORDLY WISE

The adjective formed from **climax** is *climactic*. (The *climactic* scene in a movie is the one toward which the earlier scenes have been leading.) Don't confuse this word with *climatic*, which is the adjective form of *climate*. (The great ice ages were the result of *climatic* changes.)



The Latin *dorsum* means "back" and occurs in several English words. The *dorsal* fin of a fish is the one growing from its back,;the familiar triangular fin of a shark is perhaps the best known example. Our word **endorse** comes from this same Latin root.

When you *endorse* a check or other document, you sign your name on the back of it.



A **mentor** is a wise friend and counselor, one who takes responsibility for another person's education and instructs her or him in the ways of business or a profession. The word comes from Homer's great epic poem the *Odyssey*. While its main character Odysseus was engaged in his adventurous travels, his friend Mentor was entrusted with the running of his household and with the education of his son Telemachus.