



Word List

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

audacious
ô dâ´ shəs

adj. 1. Willing to take risks; daring.
Their **audacious** escape plan involved a helicopter landing in the prison yard.

2. Showing disrespect or a lack of courtesy.
Judge Miller admonished the defense lawyer for her **audacious** remarks to the expert witness.

audacity *n.* (ô das´ ə tē) Willingness to take risks by showing excessive boldness.
Oliver Twist was the only boy with the **audacity** to ask for more food.

confiscate
kän´ fi skät

v. To seize, by force if necessary; to take possession of.
The Miami police **confiscated** the stolen paintings they found stored in a closet of the mansion.

conscientious
kän shē en´ shəs

adj. 1. Thorough; careful.
Because of our **conscientious** preparations, the science fair was enjoyable and informative for everyone.

2. Honest; principled.
Several of the students made a **conscientious** effort to combat hunger by working with the food bank.

depict
dē pikt´

v. To give a picture of; to describe.
Patrick O'Brian's seafaring novels **depict** life aboard a navy sailing ship with great accuracy.

embark
em bärk´

v. 1. To go on board a ship or airplane at the start of a voyage.
Around nine o'clock, we **embarked** at Woods Hole for a day of whale watching.

2. To start out; to begin.
Larry Bird **embarked** on his professional basketball career after finishing college.

inkling
iŋk´ liŋ

n. A slight suspicion; a vague idea.
As she opened the door, Shala had no **inkling** that her friends were hidden in the darkened room, waiting to shout "Surprise!"

lackadaisical
lak ə dā´ zi kəl

adj. Showing little spirit or enthusiasm.
When the students came after school to work on their reports, the librarian was quite **lackadaisical** about enforcing the no-talking rule.

mutiny
myōōt' n ē

n. Deliberate refusal to obey orders given by those in command, especially by sailors.

The 1917 **mutiny** by French soldiers could have caused France to lose the war.

v. To rebel openly against a commander.

Captain Vere feared the sailors would **mutiny** if he didn't discipline Billy Budd.

pilfer
pil' fər

v. To steal repeatedly small amounts or things that are of little value.

Pip **pilfered** bread and other bits of food from his sister's kitchen to feed the man in hiding.

profusion
prō fyōō' zhən

n. A plentiful supply; a great or generous amount.

Daffodils grew in **profusion** along the river bank.

profuse *adj.* Given or occurring in generous amounts; abundant.

Jerry's **profuse** apologies convinced me he was sorry he had hurt my feelings.

prudent
prōōd' nt

adj. Very careful; showing judgment and wisdom.

Lost in the forest, Amy argued it was more **prudent** to wait until morning to find the trail than to continue wandering in the dark.

prudence *n.* The avoidance of risk; carefulness in what one says or does.

Although the knight was shaking with anger, he exercised **prudence**, saying nothing to the king who had insulted him.

rankle
ranj' kəl

v. To cause continuing anger or irritation.

The unfair criticism still **rankled** Deena, even though her friend later apologized.

rebuke
rē byōōk'

v. To criticize strongly; to reprimand.

Mrs. Meyer **rebuked** Ben for his insulting remark in class.

n. A sharp criticism.

My employer's **rebuke** seemed to include every mistake I had made since beginning the job.

serene
sə rēn'

adj. Calm and untroubled; peaceful.

The nurse's **serene** manner comforted the patients.

serenity *n.* (sə ren' ə tē) A calm and untroubled state.

One way to achieve **serenity** is to practice yoga.

slovenly
slāv' ən lē

adj. Untidy; carelessly done.

Because of the carpenter's **slovenly** measuring, the floor was one inch higher at the back of the room than at the front.