



## Word List

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

**adept**

ə dept'

*adj.* Highly skilled; expert.Ogden Nash's poems reveal how **adept** he was at writing comic verse.**audible**

ô' də bəl

*adj.* Capable of being heard.The sound of the harp was barely **audible** in the large hall.**azure**

azh' ə

*n.* and *adj.* The blue color of a cloudless sky.The **azure** of Caribbean waters is in striking contrast to the grayish green of more northern seas.**banter**

ban' tər

*v.* To exchange playful, teasing remarks.The opposing players **bantered** nervously before the soccer match.*n.* Light, playful conversation.The backstage **banter** among the actors ended abruptly when the curtain rose for the first act.**capacious**

kə pā' shəs

*adj.* Able to hold a large amount; roomy.The **capacious** closets of their new apartment would provide enough room for the clothes of her two teenagers, Mrs. Winters decided.**copious**

kō' pē əs

*adj.* Large in quantity; abundant.Mediterranean cooking uses **copious** amounts of olive oil.**crucial**

krōō' shəl

*adj.* Extremely important; vital in resolving something.This canceled check, which shows the date Raquel sent the money, was **crucial** to establishing that she paid her rent on time.**decelerate**

dē sel' ə rāt

*v.* To slow down or to cause to slow down.Reverse thrust applied to the engines after landing causes the aircraft to **decelerate**.**deploy**

di plōi'

*v.* 1. To arrange troops or equipment in position for battle.Artillery had been **deployed** around Sarajevo for two years before it was withdrawn as part of the cease-fire.

2. To put into use.

When the new art center was completely finished, the editor **deployed** three reporters to cover the dedication.**facilitate**

fə sil' ə tāt

*v.* To make easier.Living in Peru for two years **facilitated** my learning Spanish.

**fastidious**  
fa stid' ē əs

*adj.* 1. Paying close attention to detail.  
The mustard stain on his sweater suggested to Lilly that Simon was not as **fastidious** about his clothes as about his car, which was spotless.  
2. Difficult to please.  
My **fastidious** friend Dignora will allow her friends to enter her room only after they have removed their shoes.

**fitful**  
fit' fəl

*adj.* Not steady; irregular.  
After a **fitful** sleep in my hotel room, which faced the highway, I awoke feeling groggy and unprepared for the first day of the conference.

**grapple**  
grap' əl

*v.* 1. To struggle with in close combat; to wrestle.  
Jake **grappled** with the intruders, but they fled before help arrived.  
2. To come to grips with.  
The community **grappled** with the problem of improving the quality of education in their schools.  
*n.* An iron shaft with a claw for grasping and holding things.  
The captain threw the **grapple**, hooking the abandoned vessel, and then drew it close enough to board.

**pang**  
paŋ

*n.* A sudden sharp feeling of pain or distress.  
Jarvis felt a **pang** of regret when he sold his old car.

**precede**  
prē sēd'

*v.* To go or come before in time, rank, or position.  
In France, the simpler Romanesque style of architecture **preceded** the more elaborate Gothic style.

8A

## Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 8. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A fastidious employee (c) is one who can be easily replaced.  
(b) is one who is fussy about details. (d) A crucial employee

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2. (a) large in amount. (c) Copious rainfall is  
(b) Audible rainfall is (d) starting and stopping regularly.

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\_\_\_\_\_

3. (a) To decelerate auto production (c) is to make it easier.  
(b) To facilitate auto production (d) is to conclude it.
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4. (a) broken and irregular. (c) rapid but shallow.  
(b) Audible breathing is (d) Fitful breathing is
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5. (a) Pangs are (c) claws used for grasping.  
(b) Grapples are (d) playful remarks.
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6. (a) To decelerate is to (c) move at a slow, steady pace.  
(b) To banter is to (d) reduce speed.
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7. (a) that is put in writing. (c) A crucial statement is one  
(b) that is vitally important. (d) An audible statement is one
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8. (a) To precede something (c) To deploy something  
(b) is to get rid of it. (d) is to come before it.
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9. (a) An azure bowl is (c) one that holds a lot.  
(b) A capacious bowl is (d) one that is filled to the brim.
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10. (a) have no further use for them. (c) To banter with people is to  
(b) use them where they are needed. (d) To deploy people is to
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pang  
precede

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 8.

1. Standing before the students gathered in the auditorium, Ms. Benton was barely **able to be heard** until someone gave her a microphone.
2. The catcher and the umpire **exchanged lighthearted comments** as the batter walked up to the plate.
3. New York City is still **trying very hard to deal** with the problem of homelessness.
4. Leaving the museum around two in the afternoon, Judy and George were reminded by the **sudden sharp twinges** of hunger that they hadn't eaten since breakfast.
5. My cousin Luis was **very skillful** at getting the basketball into the net.
6. The manager is so **hard to please** that even the salt and pepper shakers must be placed just so.
7. Fluffy white clouds stood out against the **clear blue of the** sky.
8. When the president visited our city, the police chief **put into use** an additional forty police officers.
9. A cardinal **comes in rank before** a bishop in the Catholic church.
10. Eleanor's driving instructor told her to apply the brakes gently to **cause the vehicle to slow down**.

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might cause **pangs**?
 

(a) hunger	(c) fear
(b) fatigue	(d) serenity
  
2. Which of the following might cause a vehicle to **decelerate**?
 

(a) applying the brake	(c) stepping on the gas
(b) shifting to a lower gear	(d) going down a hill
  
3. Which of the following might be **azure**?
 

(a) a jug	(c) a ceiling
(b) the sky	(d) a leaf
  
4. Which of the following would you expect to be **adept**?
 

(a) a diamond cutter	(c) an airline pilot
(b) a fledgling water skier	(d) a major league pitcher
  
5. Which of the following might be **deployed**?
 

(a) tanks	(c) moonlight
(b) soldiers	(d) ships
  
6. Which of the following might be said by a **fastidious** person?
 

(a) "Do whatever you think."	(c) "Try to get it right the first time."
(b) "This towel is not soft enough."	(d) "Did you vacuum under the sofa?"
  
7. Which of the following might one **grapple** with?
 

(a) an opponent	(c) a problem
(b) an anthology	(d) a pseudonym
  
8. Which of the following is **crucial** to learning?
 

(a) a high school diploma	(c) computers
(b) smaller classes	(d) a desire to understand

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