

Lesson 12

For more practice and games, go to www.WordlyWise3000.com.



Word List

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

abandon

ə ban' dən

v. 1. To give up by leaving in time of danger.

The captain gave the order to **abandon** the ship when it began to sink.

2. To lose or give up completely.

The trapped miners refused to **abandon** hope of rescue.

3. To withdraw help or support from one in need.

The city had to **abandon** its plan for low-income housing because people in the neighborhoods objected.

adversary

ad' vər ser ē

n. An enemy or opponent.

France and Germany were **adversaries** in two world wars but now enjoy friendly relations.

baffle

baf' əl

v. To confuse; to prevent from understanding.

Alice was **baffled** by their inappropriate behavior and didn't know how to respond.

blunder

blun' dər

n. A stupid or careless mistake.

The campaign manager's prejudiced comment was a major **blunder** that cost him his job.

v. 1. To make such a mistake.

The chess champion **blundered** when she failed to protect her knight from her opponent's bishop.

2. To move in a clumsy or careless way.

The Sheriff of Nottingham **blundered** into the trap Robin Hood had set for him.

colossal

kə lās' əl

adj. Very big; enormous.

The **colossal** size of the Great Wall is what impressed the tourists most.

detect

dē tēkt'

v. To discover something not easily noticed.

The witness did not **detect** anything unusual that day.

haul

hōl

v. To pull or carry with effort.

We **haul** the boat out of the water every winter.

n. 1. The amount caught or taken at one time.

The crew was delighted with the large **haul** of fish today.

2. The distance traveled or to be traveled.

It's a long **haul** into town.

overpower *v.* To get the better of; to defeat.
ō vər pou'ər The thieves **overpowered** the guards and left them tied up in the hall.

rejoice *v.* To be very happy.
rē jois' Family members **rejoiced** when they heard that members of the Mount Everest expedition had returned safely.

scoff *v.* To mock; to ridicule.
skōf People once **scoffed** at the idea of space travel.

sentinel *n.* One who keeps watch or guards a point of entry.
sen'ti nəl **Sentinels** were posted to warn of the enemy's approach.

siege *n.* The surrounding of a place in order to force it to surrender.
sēj The **siege** of Leningrad by the German army lasted from 1941 to 1944.

sinister *adj.* Suggesting or leading to evil or harm.
sin'is tər The villain's **sinister** words, "I'll be back!" sent shivers down our spines.

victor *n.* The winner in a contest or struggle.
vik'tər The **victors** of the semifinal competition will meet in the finals tomorrow.
victorious *adj.* (*vik tōr' ē əs*) Successful in a contest or battle.
The **victorious** debate team was honored at a ceremony attended by the mayor.

woe *n.* 1. Deep distress or misery.
wō The slaves' **woe** was evident as they were led off to captivity.
2. Trouble; misfortune.
The country's **woes** cannot be cured overnight.
woeful *adj.* 1. Full of woe; unhappy.
Those fleeing the country told a **woeful** tale of persecution by its rulers.
2. Very bad; wretched.
The pilot made a **woeful** error in judgment by trying to land in dense fog.