

Lesson 9

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



Word List

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

accumulate
ə kyōōm' yōō lāt

v. To increase in number or amount; to pile up, collect, or gather.
An inch of snow **accumulated** overnight.

aggravate
ag' rā vāt

v. 1. To make worse.
The skater **aggravated** an old knee injury when she fell.
2. To anger or annoy.
That loud rock music from the club **aggravates** the neighbors.

aggravation n. (ag rā vā' shən) 1. Annoyance; exasperation.
My **aggravation** increased as the noisy construction continued outside my window.

2. A source of annoyance or exasperation.
Deer and rabbits are a continuous **aggravation** to rural gardeners.

conserve
kən sər'v

v. To save by using carefully.
Lower speed limits help **conserve** gasoline.

conservation n. (kən sər vā' shən) The saving or protection of something through careful use.
A plan for the **conservation** of open space was unveiled at the town meeting.

contaminate
kən tam' i nāt

v. To harm by contact with something undesirable.
Chemicals spilled last year continue to **contaminate** the lake.

contamination n. (kən tam i nā' shən) The act of or result of contaminating.
Salt used on the roads in winter could lead to the **contamination** of ground water.

diminish
di min' ish

v. To make or become smaller or less; to reduce.
Constant violations of the housing regulations will **diminish** the quality of life for all the inhabitants.

drastic
dras' tik

adj. Severe; extreme.
Evil crimes receive **drastic** punishment in this new novel.

extravagant
ek strāv' ə gənt

adj. Spending, costing, or using more than is required.
Shawn's buying lunch for everyone was an **extravagant** thing to do.

extravagance n. 1. The quality of being wasteful or spending more than is necessary.
Emma's **extravagance** in early adulthood led to poverty later.

2. A thing that costs more than one can afford.
I admit the team jacket was an **extravagance**, but I couldn't resist buying it.

frugal *adj.* Careful in spending or using something.
frōō' gəl The bill for the splendid wedding ceremony shocked my **frugal** relatives.

impurity *n.* Something that is harmful or dirty.
im pyōōr' ə tē Filtering removes the **impurities** from water.

peril *n.* Danger; something that is dangerous.
per' əl The sailor understood the **peril** involved in a solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

imperil *v.* (im per' əl) To place in danger.
A driver's ineptness **imperils** the passengers.

perilous *adj.* (per' ə ləs) Dangerous.
An expedition into enemy territory could be **perilous**.

perpetual *adj.* Lasting or seeming to last forever or for a long time; continuous.
pər pech' ōō əl A **perpetual** calendar can be used year after year.

resource *n.* 1. A supply that can be used when there is a need.
rē' sōrs Coal, aluminum, and lumber are natural **resources**.
2. Skill in dealing with difficult situations.
The committee's **resource** in working out the plan for integration is admirable.
resourceful *adj.* (rē sōrs' fəl) Able to deal with difficult problems.
A **resourceful** person will triumph over difficulties.

substitute *v.* To replace one thing or person for another.
sub' stə tōōt Cooks sometimes **substitute** lemon for vinegar in salad dressing.
n. Something or someone that replaces another.
A flutist is a **substitute** for the violinist in tonight's concert.
adj. Acting in place of someone or something else.
The **substitute** teacher tolerated the class's antics.

sustain *v.* 1. To keep up; to support.
sə stān' Their firm belief that they would be rescued **sustained** them.
2. To suffer; to undergo.
The driver of the wrecked car **sustained** serious injuries.

vital *adj.* 1. Necessary for continued life or prosperity.
vīt' l Oil is **vital** to the economy of the country.
2. Full of lively spirit.
Nelson Mandela's **vital** personality enabled him to survive years of imprisonment without bitterness.
3. Of the greatest importance.
It is **vital** that an official attend to the transfer immediately.