

# Lesson

# 1

## Word List

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

### accustom

ə kus'təm

v. To make familiar.

Every fall the students **accustom** themselves to the new schedule.

**accustomed** *adj.* 1. Usual.

We sat in our **accustomed** places.

2. Used to.

My eyes soon became **accustomed** to the dark.



.....  
Talk to your partner about something at school you had to become accustomed to.

### alert

ə lɜrt'

*adj.* Watchful; wide-awake.

The shortstop was not **alert** and missed the catch.

v. To warn to be ready.

A sign **alerted** drivers to the flooded road ahead.

*n.* A warning signal.

Because of the forest fires, the nearby towns have a fire **alert**.

### assign

ə sin'

v. 1. To select for a position or for what has to be done.

For this year's basketball team, the coach **assigned** me to play as a forward.

2. To give out, as a piece of work to be done.

Our science teacher usually **assigns** two chapters a week as homework.

**assignment** *n.* Whatever is given out as work to be done.

What was the **assignment** for tomorrow's history class?



.....  
Tell your partner about the teacher you were assigned to last year.

### budge

buj

v. To move or shift.

The old metal trunk was so heavy we could not **budge** it.

### burly

bɜr'le

*adj.* Big and strongly built.

Most football players are quite **burly**.

### companion

kəm pan'yan

*n.* One who spends time with or does things with another.

My grandmother was always an interesting **companion** when we went to the city for the day.



**compatible**  
kəm pat' ə bəl

*adj.* Getting along well together.

Julie and I didn't mind sharing a room, because we were so **compatible**.

**concept**  
kən' sept



*n.* A general idea or thought about something.

For our project, we started with the **concept** of helping our community.

*Discuss with your partner your concept of the perfect day.*

**distract**  
di strakt'

*v.* To draw one's thoughts or attention away from the subject at hand.  
The police sirens **distracted** me, so I didn't hear what you said.

**distraction** *n.* Something that draws one's thoughts or attention away.  
I do my homework during study period when there are no **distractions**.



*Talk to your partner about how to handle distractions when you need to do schoolwork.*

**jostle**  
jas' əl

*v.* To push or shove.

I dropped my phone when someone in the crowd **jostled** me.

**obedient**  
ō be' dē ənt

*adj.* Doing what one is asked or told.

When giving orders, my mother expects all of us to be **obedient**.

**obedience** *n.* The state or condition of doing what one is told.  
We are trying to teach **obedience** to our new puppy.



*Tell your partner what might happen if you are not obedient in school.*

**obstacle**  
əb' stə kəl

*n.* Something that prevents one from moving forward.

The **obstacle** holding up traffic was a tree blown over by last night's storm.

**patient**  
pā' shənt

*adj.* Willing to wait without complaining.

The audience was very **patient** even though the show started thirty minutes late.

*n.* A person in a doctor's care.

The **patients** in this part of the hospital are recovering from operations.

**patience** *n.* A willingness to wait for someone or something without complaining.

Having to stand in line for an hour to buy tickets really tested my **patience**.



*Tell your partner why it's important to have patience.*

**pedestrian**  
pə des' trē ən

*n.* A person who is walking; someone traveling on foot.

**Pedestrians** should use the crosswalk to avoid accidents.



**retire**  
rē tīr'

v. 1. To stop working because one has reached a certain age.

My grandfather wishes he could quit his job and **retire**, but he needs to work a few more years.

2. To go to bed.

I was not feeling well, so I **retired** early.

**retirement** n. The state of no longer working.

Uncle Eli regularly saved money for his **retirement**.



.....  
*Discuss with your partner what time you need to retire each night so you get enough rest.*

## 1A

### Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) become familiar with it.

(c) To accustom oneself to something is to

(b) do it carefully.

(d) To distract oneself by doing something is to

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2. (a) is under a doctor's care.

(c) A companion is one who

(b) A patient is a person who

(d) gives hope to others.

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3. (a) An assignment is

(c) a general idea about something.

(b) A concept is

(d) something that stands in the way.

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4. (a) has traveled a lot.

(c) spends time with another person.

(b) A pedestrian is someone who

(d) A companion is someone who

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5. (a) An alert is  
(b) a meeting arranged in advance.  
(c) work given out to be done.  
(d) An assignment is

6. (a) Patience is  
(b) Obedience is  
(c) help and support given to another.  
(d) the willingness to wait without complaining.

7. (a) is big and strong.  
(b) gets along with others.  
(c) An alert person is one who  
(d) A burly person is one who

8. (a) Obedience is  
(b) Retirement is  
(c) a drawing away of one's attention.  
(d) a time when one no longer works.

9. (a) To jostle someone is  
(b) to warn the person of danger.  
(c) To distract someone is  
(d) to bump up against that person.

10. (a) go to bed.  
(b) To budge is to  
(c) To retire is to  
(d) do as one is told.

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## Just the Right Word

Replace each phrase in bold with a single word (or form of the word) from the word list.

1. They expected their children to be **willing to do as they were told**.
2. My grandparents plan to travel to other countries when they **give up working at their jobs**.
3. They refused to **make the slightest move** even though we pleaded with them to step aside.
4. If you and your roommate are not **able to get along**, you should split up.
5. Elido sounded the **signal that warned of danger** when he saw smoke.
6. We made our way around the **objects that were blocking our way** and continued on our journey.
7. A buzzing mosquito can be a **thing that draws your attention away** when you are trying to read.
8. The camp director **gave out jobs and sent** us to the kitchen crew.
9. You see very few **people out walking** this early in the morning.
10. My sister is more **willing to accept delays without complaining** than I am.



## Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters next to each correct answer. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following could be an **obstacle**?
  - (a) lack of money
  - (b) a fallen tree
  - (c) poor eyesight
  - (d) a pleasant voice
2. In which of the following places would a **pedestrian** be?
  - (a) on the sidewalk
  - (b) inside a car
  - (c) in a favorite armchair
  - (d) on a plane
3. Which of the following could **distract** someone?
  - (a) loud noises
  - (b) whispering
  - (c) dreams
  - (d) the radio
4. Which of the following usually learn **obedience**?
  - (a) dogs
  - (b) soldiers
  - (c) raccoons
  - (d) children
5. Which of the following must be **alert**?
  - (a) a watchman
  - (b) a babysitter
  - (c) a driver
  - (d) a pilot
6. Which of the following would you expect to be **compatible**?
  - (a) friends
  - (b) partners
  - (c) enemies
  - (d) teammates
7. Which of the following could be **assigned**?
  - (a) jobs
  - (b) rooms
  - (c) seats
  - (d) birthdays
8. Which of the following might make a good **companion**?
  - (a) a dog
  - (b) a canoe
  - (c) a friend
  - (d) a meal

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## Word Study: Synonyms and Antonyms

Circle the two synonyms in each group of four words.

Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meanings. *Vanish* and *disappear* are synonyms. Both words have to do with passing out of sight.

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|-------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. budge    | warn    | shift   | accustom |
| 2. distract | return  | retire  | quit     |
| 3. concept  | barrier | venture | obstacle |
| 4. warning  | light   | sound   | alert    |
| 5. jostle   | shove   | assign  | choose   |

Circle the two antonyms in each group of four words.

Antonyms are words that have opposite or nearly opposite meanings. *Rise* and *fall* are antonyms. Both words have to do with movement, but in different directions.

- |             |          |            |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 6. alert    | drowsy   | compatible | patient    |
| 7. familiar | slight   | alert      | burly      |
| 8. precious | dreary   | unfamiliar | accustomed |
| 9. unsteady | obedient | defiant    | watchful   |
| 10. assign  | retire   | jostle     | arise      |





## Friends for Life

The **concept** that trained dogs could act as eyes for visually disabled people developed at the beginning of the twentieth century in Germany at a remarkable school. The pupils were not humans; they were dogs who learned how to lead people who were blind. The notion caught on quickly. Guide dogs, or Seeing Eye dogs as they are also known, began to be trained in many countries. They are now a familiar sight. These **patient** and loyal animals lead their **companions** everywhere they go. They enable their owners to make their way in the world almost as well as sighted persons.

Not every breed of dog has the exceptional qualities that make a good guide. Seeing Eye dogs must be **alert** at all times, so dogs that are easily **distracted** are not suitable candidates for this exacting job. Labrador retrievers, German shepherds, and boxers make excellent guides. They are smart and easy to train, and they usually get along with people. During its training, the dog is escorted to many kinds of busy places. This is to get it **accustomed** to anything that might occur. A dog is trained in large stores, noisy airports, and crowded restaurants. It rides on buses and in taxis. It is pushed and poked. It learns to disregard anything that might cause its attention to wander.

The Seeing Eye dog is responsible for steering its owner with the utmost care past any **obstacles**. On busy sidewalks, the dog must skillfully weave its way around other **pedestrians**. This is to ensure that its owner doesn't get **jostled**. A guide dog is trained to come to a stop just before it reaches a curb; this is the way it informs its owner to take a step up or down. A guide dog learns to be **obedient**, of course. But it is also taught that there may be situations where it must disobey. For example, say its owner tells it to cross a street when a car is coming. It won't **budge** until it determines that it is safe to cross. While it is being trained, a guide dog is never punished for making a mistake; on the contrary, it is encouraged to do better by being rewarded with praise.

When the training is complete, a guide dog is **assigned** to its new owner. The two of them need to be **compatible**; they will be together for a long time. The size, weight, and nature of both are taken into consideration. A **burly** person might be more comfortable with a large dog. A person who

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spends most of the day inside probably will not want to be matched with an energetic dog that needs plenty of exercise. From the beginning, a strong connection needs to form between the dog and the owner.

The Seeing Eye headquarters are located in Morristown, New Jersey. The Seeing Eye is the oldest school for guide dogs in the United States. Every year several hundred people who are blind spend a month there. They learn how to communicate with the dogs they have been matched with. Usually a guide dog stays with its owner for about ten years before it **retires**. Then it may go live with friends of the owner. The dog may remain with them as a traditional family pet for the remainder of its life.

► Answer each of the following questions with a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. What was the **concept** behind the Seeing Eye dog movement?

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2. When does the relationship between guide dog and owner officially begin?

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3. What sort of dog might a **burly** person be matched up with?

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4. Why do you think a powerful dog would not be matched with someone who is not very strong?

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5. Where are you most likely to see **pedestrians**?

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