

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

ancestor

an' ses tər

n. 1. A person from whom one is descended.

My **ancestors** came from Congo.

2. An early kind of animal from which later ones have developed; a forerunner.

The dog-sized mesohippus is the **ancestor** of the modern horse.

carnivore

kär' ni vör

n. A flesh-eating animal.

Carnivores have sharp, pointed teeth that enable them to tear the meat they eat.

carnivorous *adj.* (kär niv' ə r ə s) Flesh-eating.

Although dogs are **carnivorous**, they will often eat other foods besides meat.

comprehend

käm prē hend'

v. To understand.

If you don't **comprehend** the question, I will word it differently.

comprehension *n.* The act of understanding; the ability to understand.

Pawel cannot speak Spanish very well, but his **comprehension** is quite good.



.....
Show your partner what you look like if you don't comprehend something.

duration

door ā' shən

n. The time during which something lasts or continues.

We stayed in our house for the **duration** of the heavy rainstorm.

evident

ev' ə dənt



adj. Easy to see and understand; obvious, clear.

It is **evident** from your manner that you are not happy to see me.

.....
Make a face at your partner that makes your feelings evident, and then ask your partner to guess your feelings.

extinct

ek stinkt'

adj. 1. No longer existing or living.

The giant woolly mammoth went **extinct** about ten thousand years ago.

2. No longer active.

Mount Saint Helens was believed to be an **extinct** volcano until it suddenly became active in 1980.

ferocious
fə rō' shəs

adj. Savage; fierce.
Doberman pinschers make **ferocious** guard dogs.

ferocity *n.* (fə rās' ə tē) The state or quality of being fierce.
The **ferocity** of the storm surprised us.



Show your partner what you look like if you act with ferocity.

gigantic
jī gan' tik

adj. Very large; like a giant in size.
The *Spruce Goose* was a **gigantic** airplane that made only one flight.

obscure
äb skyoor'

v. To cover up or keep from being seen.
Clouds **obscured** the moon.
adj. 1. Hard to see; hidden.
The boat was an **obscure** shape in the mist.

2. Not easy to understand.
The story was full of **obscure** words like "cauldron" and "phoenix."



Tell your partner what you think is the most obscure thing your teacher has said this week.

option
äp' shən

n. Choice, or something that is available as a choice.
We had the **option** of practicing soccer during the lunch break or after school.

optional *adj.* Left to choice.
Papi said we had to go to Tia Maria's house for lunch, but staying for dinner was **optional**.



Discuss with your partner whether going to school should be optional.

premature
prē mā choor'

adj. Too early; happening or arriving before the proper time.
Premature babies require special care before they are allowed to leave the hospital.

preserve
prē zurv'

v. 1. To save; to keep from harm; to protect.
This law will help **preserve** the old forests in the national parks.
2. To keep from rotting or spoiling.
Steve and Martha **preserve** the peaches from their orchard by canning them.

prey
prā

n. 1. An animal that is hunted for food.

Chickens are the natural **prey** of foxes.

2. One that is helpless or unable to resist attack; a victim.

Be alert when you travel so that you will not be **prey** to thieves.

v. 1. To hunt (animals) for food.

Wolves **prey** on the weakest deer in the herd.

2. To take from or rob using violence or trickery.

The pickpockets **preyed** on people whose arms were full of shopping bags.



.....
Tell your partner how an animal might avoid becoming prey.

puny
pyōō' nē

adj. 1. Weak.

Lifting weights can change **puny** muscles into powerful ones.

2. Lacking in size, strength, or power.

My offering of one dollar seemed **puny** compared to what others gave.

survive
sər vīv'

v. 1. To stay alive where there is a chance of dying or being killed.

Only three passengers **survived** the plane crash.

2. To continue living or existing through a threatening situation.

Only two of the eight maple trees in our yard **survived** the hurricane.

survivor *n.* One who stays alive in a situation where others die.

Survivors of the shipwreck floated on life rafts until the helicopter could pick them up.



.....
Talk to your partner about how you would survive if you were alone on an island.

3A

Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 3. Then write the sentence.

1. (a) it is easy to see.

(b) If something is evident,

(c) If something is premature,

(d) it has lasted for a long time.

2. (a) from whom one is descended. (c) An ancestor is someone
(b) who does not eat meat. (d) A survivor is someone
-
-

3. (a) To prey on wildlife is to (c) keep it from harm.
(b) To preserve wildlife is to (d) have a complete understanding of it.
-
-

4. (a) A gigantic volcano is one that (c) is no longer active.
(b) An extinct volcano is one that (d) is hidden from view.
-
-

5. (a) is to let it get away. (c) To prey on something
(b) To obscure something (d) is to hunt it for food.
-
-

6. (a) The comprehension of (c) the length of time it is delayed.
something is
(b) the length of time that it lasts. (d) The duration of something is
-
-

7. (a) that is very big. (c) A puny figure is one
(b) that is well known. (d) A gigantic figure is one
-
-

8. (a) is one that has not died out. (c) A practice that is optional
(b) is one that seems strange. (d) A practice that survives
-
-

9. (a) one that leaves nothing out. (c) An obscure report is
(b) A premature report is (d) one that is hard to understand.
-
-

10. (a) A ferocious creature is (c) An extinct creature is
(b) one that has died out. (d) one that eats only meat.
-
-

3B

Just the Right Word

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

1. The house was **hidden from view** by a thick hedge.
2. My two-horsepower engine is **lacking in power** compared to the fifty-horsepower one in your boat.
3. It is **easy to see** from the dishes in the sink that someone has already eaten lunch.
4. The film captures the **fierce behavior** of a mother tiger defending her cubs.
5. The pirate Blackbeard **attacked and robbed the people** on ships in the Caribbean.
6. To announce the holiday schedule now would be **to do so before the time is right**.
7. After the flood, the **people who remained alive** returned to their homes to clean away the mud.
8. Alberto had no other **choice available** but to take the test on Friday, even though he was still sick.

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9. We did not stay for the **entire time** of the concert because Madeleine was too tired.

10. Lions and tigers are **animals that eat meat**.

3C

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 is **optional** on most bikes?

- (a) brakes
- (b) tires
- (c) basket
- (d) bike lock

2. Which of the following can be **preserved**?

- (a) freedom
- (b) fruit
- (c) letters
- (d) clouds

3. Which of the following can become **extinct**?

- (a) languages
- (b) volcanoes
- (c) plants
- (d) animals

4. Which of the following is an **ancestor**?

- (a) your brother
- (b) your daughter
- (c) your great-grandmother
- (d) your grandson

5. Which of the following are **carnivorous**?

- (a) wolves
- (b) horses
- (c) cows
- (d) bees

6. Which of the following can be **premature**?

- (a) a death
- (b) a holiday
- (c) an announcement
- (d) a baby

7. Which of the following might be **ferocious**?

- (a) a polar bear
- (b) a teddy bear
- (c) a hungry dog
- (d) a hungry baby

8. Which of the following might be hard to **comprehend**?
- (a) a computer game (c) a foreign language
(b) a shopping list (d) a card game

3D

Word Study: Latin Roots

In each space, write the Latin word forming the root of each English word, together with its meaning. Choose from the ten Latin words shown.

Many English words come from Latin roots. The word *liberty*, for example, is formed from the Latin word *liber*, meaning "free."

cultus (plow)

praematurus (very early)

durare (to last)

pedester (on foot)

trahere (to draw)

vivere (to live)

videre (to see)

prehendere (grasp)

ferox (fierce)

carnis (meat)

Definition

English Word

Latin Word

1. not fully formed

premature

Meaning

2. to stay alive

survive

Meaning

3. meat-eating

carnivore

Meaning

4. with great savagery

ferocious

Meaning

5. one who goes on foot

pedestrian

Meaning

6. to till or work the soil

cultivate

Meaning

ancestor

carnivore

comprehend

duration

evident

extinct

ferocious

gigantic

obscure

option

premature

preserve

prey

puny

survive

7. to draw attention away distract _____

Meaning _____

8. to grasp the meaning of comprehend _____

Meaning _____

9. the time something lasts duration _____

Meaning _____

10. plain to see evident _____

Meaning _____

3E

Vocabulary in Context

Read the passage.



The Last Dinosaurs

When people think of dinosaurs, the one that comes to mind most frequently is *Tyrannosaurus rex*. This **gigantic** monster was almost fifty feet in length and weighed five tons. *Tyrannosaurus rex* had curved eight-inch talons on its feet. It also had a huge jaw lined with teeth as long and as sharp as steak knives. It was thought to have been the most terrifying of all the **carnivorous** dinosaurs. Imagine the surprise, then, of some scientists who were digging in eastern Utah in 1992. They found **preserved** in the rock the remains of a dinosaur. Not just any dinosaur, but one that could well have been a match for *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Named *Utahraptor*, this **ferocious** creature was “only” twenty feet long. But it had twelve-inch hooked claws on each of its hind legs. Unlike *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which had surprisingly short and **puny** forelimbs, *Utahraptor* had large, powerful arms equipped with ten-inch claws. With these it could grasp its **prey** and bring its victim down. Then it could slash with the terrible claws on its hind feet. Flight was not an **option** for an animal being attacked. The *Utahraptor* had sturdy back legs. It could probably outrun any other creature. But a contest between these two powerful creatures of the dinosaur world was not to be. It never took place,

for one reason: All of the *Utahraptors* had been dead for fifty million years before *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever appeared.

It is difficult to **comprehend** the vast stretch of time that dinosaurs lived on Earth. They lasted well over a hundred and fifty million years. *Tyrannosaurus rex* was among the last of the dinosaurs; it died out sixty-five million years ago. Human beings have been around for only two or three million years. It will be a long time before we equal the **duration** of the dinosaurs' stay on Earth.

No one knows why these creatures became **extinct**. But it seems **evident** from the record left in Earth's crust that it happened fairly suddenly. We know that a meteorite, a large mass of rock or metal from outer space, once hit Earth. This was in what is now Mexico about sixty-five million years ago. The meteorite made a crater almost two hundred miles across. Dust from such an impact would have **obscured** the light from the sun for many weeks. The result would have been freezing temperatures. Much of Earth's plant life would have died. That would have made it difficult for many animals to **survive**.

However, it would be **premature** to say for certain that this was what brought an end to the dinosaurs; scientists are still studying the subject. Indeed, scientists in China have discovered the bones of *Sinornis*, a feathered dinosaur that perched and flew. This has led some to claim that this creature may be the **ancestor** of today's birds. If this turns out to be true, then it would be possible to say that the dinosaurs never died out at all.

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► 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. How do scientists know that *Utahraptor* ever lived?

2. What was the **duration** of the age of the dinosaurs?

3. When did the last of the dinosaurs die out?
