

Lesson 5

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



Word List

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

antic
an' tik

n. (usually plural) A playful or funny act.

The **antics** of the clown made the crowd roar with laughter.

attire
ə tīr'

n. Clothes, especially fine and expensive clothes.

One often needs special **attire** to be in a wedding party.

v. To dress up or be dressed up.

The designer **attired** the models in shirts and trousers for the fashion show.

captivate
kap' ti vāt

v. To please greatly; to win over by special charm.

The cast's superb acting **captivated** the audience.

deft
deft

adj. Quick and sure; skillful at handling.

A **deft** juggler can keep five or more objects in the air at one time.

diligent
dil' ə jənt

adj. Working with great care and effort.

Diligent students usually attain high marks.

eclipse
ē klips'

n. The total or partial hiding of one heavenly body by another.

An **eclipse** of the sun occurs when the moon passes directly in front of it.

v. To do or be better than; to outshine.

Her latest novel **eclipses** all of her previous work.

evolve
ē vōlv'

v. To develop and change gradually over time.

Some scientists think that modern birds may have **evolved** from dinosaurs.

evolution *n.* (ev ə lōō' shən) The changes that take place as something evolves.

The **evolution** of aircraft from the Wright brothers' flimsy plane to the modern jet airplane occurred over an incredibly short time.

innate
in āt'

adj. Having from birth; occurring naturally rather than being learned.

Mozart's **innate** musical ability showed itself at a very early age.

inscribe
in skrib'

v. To write, print, or etch into as a permanent record.

Most of the gravestones were simply **inscribed** with the person's name, date of birth, and date of death.

inscription *n.* (in skrip' shən) The act of inscribing or what is inscribed.
Coins of the United States bear the **inscription** "E Pluribus Unum."

posture *päs' chər* *n.* The way one holds one's body; a pose or position.
You can improve your **posture** by throwing your shoulders back.
v. To assume a particular position, especially a pretended one.
They **postured** as my supporters while secretly campaigning against me.

shroud *shroud* *n.* 1. Something that covers or hides from view.
A **shroud** of mystery surrounds the couple's disappearance.
2. Cloth used to wrap a dead body before burial.
It used to be the custom to make a **shroud** from a long linen sheet dipped in melted wax.
v. To block from sight.
Dense fog on the river **shrouded** the tug boats.

stifle *stī' fəl* *v.* 1. To cut off the air from; to smother.
Thick smoke **stifled** those who remained in the burning building.
2. To hold back; to check.
The spectators tried to **stifle** their yawns during the lengthy ceremony.

tentative *ten' tə tiv* *adj.* Not fully worked out or final; hesitating or uncertain.
The deadline is **tentative** and may be extended.

tranquil *tran' kwil* *adj.* Calm; peaceful.
The sea was **tranquil** with no hint of the approaching storm.
tranquility *n.* (tran' kwil' ə tē) The state of being tranquil.
Many authors prefer writing during the **tranquility** of early morning before anyone else is up.

versatile *vər' sə təl* *adj.* Able to do many different things or to be used in many different ways.
She is a **versatile** musician who can play eight instruments.
versatility *n.* (vər sə til' ə tē) The state or condition of being versatile.
The tomato's **versatility** and distinct flavor make it a favorite of many cooks.

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 5. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) To evolve is to
(b) To posture is to
(c) pretend to a position one doesn't really hold.
(d) remain in one position without moving.

2. (a) make fun of that person.
(b) To attire someone is to
(c) dress that person.
(d) To captivate someone is to

3. (a) A deft move is one that
(b) is made in an uncertain way.
(c) is repeated over and over.
(d) A tentative move is one that

4. (a) gradual change over time.
(b) Tranquility is
(c) the ability to do many things well.
(d) Evolution is

5. (a) A diligent person is one who
(b) engages in foolish or playful acts.
(c) A versatile person is one who
(d) makes an effort to exercise great care.

6. (a) To stifle someone is to
(b) To eclipse someone is to
(c) fill that person with joy.
(d) cut off that person's supply of air.

7. (a) Versatility is
(b) Tranquility is
(c) the state of being at peace.
(d) an unwillingness to change one's mind.

8. (a) Something that is inscribed is
(b) carried out in secret.
(c) written into a permanent record.
(d) Something that is innate is

9. (a) a covering for a dead body. (c) a silly or playful act.
(b) An eclipse is (d) A shroud is
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10. (a) To be deft (c) To be captivated
(b) is to be greatly pleased. (d) is to be held against one's will.
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5B

Just the Right Word

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 5.

1. The children's **playful acts** made their parents roar with laughter.
2. Your **ability to do so many things well** was what impressed the voters the most.
3. What is the correct **clothing that should be worn** for an awards banquet?
4. She **completely won over** the audience with her fine performance.
5. I admire the **very skillful** way you handled what could have been an embarrassing situation.
6. When is the next **time that the earth will pass directly between the sun's position and that** of the moon?
7. My aunt's exceptional vigor was **present from the time of her birth**; even as an infant she was active and strong.
8. Your backache is probably caused by your poor **way of holding your body**.
9. The bride **struggled to hold back** a giggle when the nervous bridegroom dropped the ring during the ceremony.
10. A thick fog **hid from sight everything that was in** the harbor.

antic
attire
captivate
deft
diligent
eclipse
evolve
innate
inscribe
posture
shroud
stifle
tentative
tranquil
versatile

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

1. Which of the following can be **versatile**?
(a) a tool (c) a performer
(b) a date in history (d) a thank-you note
2. Which of the following is an article of **attire**?
(a) a vest (c) a hat
(b) a walking stick (d) a pair of gloves
3. Which of the following might be an **antic**?
(a) tickling someone (c) making funny faces
(b) robbing someone (d) turning cartwheels
4. Which of the following could be **tentative**?
(a) a movement (c) a proposal
(b) a suggestion (d) a triumph
5. Which of the following have **evolved**?
(a) plants (c) animals
(b) human beings (d) automobiles
6. On which of the following might you find an **inscription**?
(a) a pedestal (c) the inside cover of a book
(b) the front of a building (d) an exhibit in a museum
7. Which of the following would you expect to be **tranquil**?
(a) a hectic chase (c) a rural scene
(b) a sanctuary (d) a rose garden
8. Which of the following is a **posture**?
(a) sitting slumped over (c) standing up with arms crossed
(b) dressing up (d) standing with bent knees

Each group of four words contains either two synonyms or two antonyms. Circle that pair. Then circle the S if they are synonyms or the A if they are antonyms.

1. outshine	eclipse	vacate	posture	S	A
2. skillful	deft	humid	innate	S	A
3. tranquil	hidden	peaceful	versatile	S	A
4. exchange	purify	pollute	propel	S	A
5. swivel	charge	inflate	turn	S	A
6. hectic	distinct	rural	calm	S	A
7. squalid	diligent	versatile	magnificent	S	A
8. superb	splendid	distinct	enormous	S	A
9. danger	buffet	terrain	jeopardy	S	A
10. propel	detain	pollute	persecute	S	A

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