

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 18 The Word Roots *path*, *pathy*, and *pass*

Word roots are the building blocks around which thousands of words are constructed. Recognizing these word roots and knowing their basic meanings will help you to construct meanings for unfamiliar words. The Greek roots *path*, *pathy*, and the Latin root *pass* mean "feel" or "suffer." All the vocabulary words in this lesson contain one of these roots. Think about how each word can relate to "feeling" or "suffering."

Word List

antipathy

apathy

empathy

impassioned

impassive

passionate

passive

pathetic

pathology

pathos

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Read the paragraph below, studying the context of the boldfaced words. On the lines, write each word in the order it appears in the paragraph. Then, circle the word roots—*path*, *pathy*, or *pass*. Finally, from the list at the right, choose the best definition for each word and write the letter of that definition next to the word. **Underlined letters indicate letters that should be circled.**

When our psychology class was studying the nature of emotions, each of us role-played an emotion. Ed opted for **apathy** because he doesn't care about anything. Joanna played an **impassive** person because she doesn't show her feelings, even though we think she has them. Sadly, Addie volunteered to be **pathetic** because she knows we all feel sorry for her. Chris always shows sympathy to her, so we named him **pathos**. Maria jumped in excitedly, shouting that she had to take the role of **impassioned**. That posed a problem for Reanne, who also feels every emotion intensely. We gave her **passionate**. Rich said he'd take whatever role we said, so, of course, he became **passive**. Keith hated the whole exercise, so we assigned him **antipathy**. I played **empathy** because I did such a good job of understanding everyone else's concerns. After the role-playing, Mrs. Suarez said that next we'd study **pathology**, which focuses on the causes of physical problems.

apathy

1.

b
impassive

2.

i
pathetic

3.

f
pathos

4.

a
impassioned

5.

j
passionate

6.

g
passive

7.

h
antipathy

8.

c
empathy

9.

d
pathology

10.

e

a. an emotion of sympathetic pity

b. lack of feeling or emotion

c. dislike

d. capacity for participation in another's feelings or ideas

e. study of the nature of diseases

f. able to move one to pity

g. capable of, affected by, or expressing intense feeling

h. lacking energy or will

i. giving no sign of feeling or emotion

j. filled with passion or zeal