

Lesson 4

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Words to Know

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

abhor
əb'hor'

v. To shrink from in disgust; to detest.
We abhor cruelty in all its forms.
abhorrent *adj.* Disgusting; causing loathing.
The caste system was abhorrent to Gandhi.

affable
əf'ə-bəl

adj. Pleasant; approachable; gracious.
Maribel's affable manner brought her many friends.
affability *n.* Friendliness of manner.
The counselor welcomed the young campers with such affability that not one felt homesick.

amiss
ə'mis'

adv. In a wrong or imperfect way.
Don't take amiss my suggestion for improving your drawing.
adj. Out of order; wrong.
Although the door to the school was wide open when we arrived at 7:30, nothing in the office seemed amiss at first.

despondent
də'spɒn'dənt

adj. Depressed from loss of hope or confidence; utterly discouraged.
Failing my driver's test for the third time left me completely despondent.

entreat
en'treɪ'

v. To ask earnestly; to beg.
"Please, please, let me have a dog," Augustin entreated his parents. "I promise to take care of it!"
entreaty *n.* A plea or earnest request.
The umpire ignored the manager's entreaties to reverse the call.

haunt
haʊnt

v. 1. To stay in one's mind continually.
Even though I saw Platoon over a week ago, the music continues to haunt me.
2. To visit frequently.
Ismael haunted the waterfront, hoping to find a job on a whaling ship.
3. To appear in the form of a ghost.
The Headless Horseman haunted the hollow where Khabod Crane rode his horse.

impel
im'pel'

v. 1. To drive or to propel.
A raging current impelled their raft downstream toward the waterfall.
2. To urge or drive by force or moral pressure.
Hatred of slavery impelled Harriet Tubman to return repeatedly to the South to help other slaves escape.

interminable
in'ter'mi-nə-bəl

adj. Endless; seeming to be without end.
We had an interminable wait at the airport because the heavy snowstorm shut down the runways.

irascible
i-ras'ə-bəl

adj. Quick-tempered; irritable.
My grandfather looked kindly, but he was really quite irascible.

profound
prə'faʊnd

adj. 1. Intense; deeply felt.
Parents who had been separated from their children at the beginning of the war felt profound joy when they were reunited in the refugee camp.
2. Having understanding or knowledge that goes beneath the surface, beyond the obvious.
Profound insights from Thoreau and Gandhi influenced Martin Luther King's ideas about nonviolent protest.

recluse
rek'luːs

n. A person who lives apart from society and often alone.
Jamie became a recluse when his wife died, refusing even to answer his mail.
reclusive *adj.* Withdrawn from society.
Our neighbors are so reclusive that we hardly see them from one year to the next.

reverberate
rɪ'ver'bər-ət

v. To be repeated as in a series of echoes or vibrations.
We loved to hear our shouts reverberate as we ran through the old tunnel.

sage
sɛɪ

adj. Having wisdom and good judgment.
Ben Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack offered sage advice to the colonists.
n. 1. A person known for wisdom and good judgment.
When I need advice, I consult my grandmother, the family sage.
2. An aromatic grayish-green plant used in cooking.
Sage and onion are essential ingredients for a good turkey stuffing.

trade
t্রেɪd

n. A long, angry speech.
The British soldiers, tiring of the speaker's trade about high taxes on tea, ordered the crowd to move along.

tremulous
trem'yʊləs

adj. 1. Marked by trembling or shaking.
Marie tried to look brave as the nurse prepared to give her an injection, but her tremulous lower lip betrayed her.
2. Timid or fearful.
In a tremulous voice, Alejandro began his first stage appearance as Prospero.

4A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 4. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- (a) If something is interminable, _____ (c) it changes frequently.
 (b) If something is amiss, _____ (d) it is not right.
- (a) have a vivid memory of it. _____ (c) To impel something is
 (b) To haunt something is _____ (d) to move it along.
- (a) A profound answer is one _____ (c) that seems to have no end.
 (b) An interminable answer is one _____ (d) that makes a person laugh.
- (a) An entreaty is _____ (c) a solemn agreement.
 (b) A recuse is _____ (d) an earnest request.
- (a) is to spend time there repeatedly. (c) To abhor a place
 (b) is to have fond memories of it. (d) To haunt a place
- (a) a long, angry speech. _____ (c) an angry person.
 (b) A tirade is _____ (d) A sage is
- (a) An affable remark _____ (c) is one that is made spontaneously.
 (b) is one that causes disgust. (d) An abhorrent remark
- (a) one that is intended to confuse. (c) one that expresses deep
 understanding.
 (b) A profound statement is (d) A despondent statement is

4B 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 4.

- What on earth was it that made you to talk back to the principal?
- Jen has a very strong dislike of people who say one thing but do another.
- Rumbling thunder continued to echo through the long narrow valley.
- Born in China thousands of years ago, Lao-tzu is still considered a person who possessed great wisdom.
- Tony's first pitch went in an imperfect way, almost striking the batter.
- My sister was feeling very discouraged when she was unable to participate in the violin competition.
- Frederick Douglass earnestly begged the crowd to work to abolish slavery.
- In order to think and write, Thoreau lived a separate and solitary life for two years at Walden Pond.
- Juliet's voice was shaking and unsteady with grief as she begged the nurse to comfort her.
- Garrison Keillor's pleasant and gracious manner has made him a popular radio host.

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

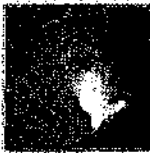
- Which of the following might be said of sage?
 - It has an aroma.
 - It is used in cooking.
 - It is burned for fuel.
 - It is grayish green.
- Which of the following might have a reclusive existence?
 - a politician
 - a hermit
 - a light-house keeper
 - an entertainer
- Which of the following is true of a trader?
 - It expresses anger.
 - It offers comfort.
 - It is concise.
 - It is humorous.
- Which of the following can be tremulous?
 - hands
 - voices
 - roads
 - books
- Which of the following might haunt a person?
 - a song
 - a face
 - a poem
 - a memory
- Which of the following might an affable person say?
 - "So nice to see you."
 - "What can I do to help?"
 - "Leave me alone."
 - "Get lost!"
- Which of the following might be profound?
 - a book
 - a thought
 - a snowflake
 - a planet
- Which of the following might reverberate?
 - the beat of a drum
 - a flash of lightning
 - a crack of thunder
 - the warmth of fire

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

- SAGE : WISDOM ::
 - hunter : prey
 - speaker : tirade
 - author : anthology
 - acrobat : agility
- CONCISE : LENGTHY ::
 - avid : eager
 - curry : thorough
 - abrupt : brusque
 - alone : despondent
- AFFABILITY : SMILE ::
 - pain : grimace
 - resilience : echo
 - turbulence : pseudonym
 - abasion : bruse
- GUILTY : HONESTY ::
 - name : pseudonym
 - sickness : health
 - entreary : mercy
 - surmise : guess
- ITEM : INVENTORY ::
 - recluse : society
 - pivot : weathervane
 - poem : anthology
 - attempt : endeavor
- SCOLDING : TRADE ::
 - sage : wisdom
 - breeze : gale
 - guess : conjecture
 - crime : punishment
- ENCOMPASS : EXCLUDE ::
 - rebuff : reject
 - lower : demean
 - remove : extricate
 - corroborate : disprove
- PREVALENT : RARE ::
 - brief : concise
 - pervasive : isolated
 - turbulent : unruly
 - affable : happy
- ABHOR : ADMIRE ::
 - emulate : copy
 - rob : steal
 - fix : adjust
 - rebuff : welcome
- SAD : DESPONDENT ::
 - glad : ecstatic
 - weeping : tearful
 - smiling : happy
 - curry : thorough

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Tiger's Whisker



This folk tale from Korea tells us how love can heal deep wounds, not quickly or easily, but with patience and courage.

Once Kim Soo-Nyung's life was filled with happiness. She and her husband, Liang-Po, one of the most affable of men, cultivated the fields of their small farm and raised three children with never an angry word spoken between them. But when war broke out, Liang-Po was forced to serve in the army even though he abhorred violence.

While he was away, Soo-Nyung and her three children worked hard to ensure the success of the farm. They took satisfaction in planting and harvesting, caring for the livestock, and keeping the farm buildings in good repair, all without outside help. The war, though, dragged on interminably; there were times when Soo-Nyung grew despondent, thinking she would never see Liang-Po again. But one day in the early spring, as she was drawing water from the well, she looked up to see him limping along the road toward the farm. Scarcely able to believe her eyes, Soo-Nyung rushed to greet him and welcome him home.

Her joy was short-lived, however, for it did not take long to see that something was amiss. There had been a profound change in Liang-Po. He, who always had been ready for a joke or a romp with his children, was now frangible and snapped at them without cause. He shut himself away like a recluse, responding to Soo-Nyung's pleas that he join her and the children for the evening meal with a stony silence. If she persisted, he would launch into a diatribe that caused her to flee his presence. He took no interest in the farm, no pleasure in his family, and refused to talk about what troubled him. In time, Soo-Nyung, having lost patience with her husband, had no more dealings with him.

Liang-Po's mother, who lived in the next village, was distressed by her daughter-in-law's unhappiness. She persuaded Soo-Nyung to visit a local herbalist, a woman who was famous as much for her sage advice as for her herbal remedies. Soo-Nyung's sad story touched this woman's heart. "Your husband undoubtedly witnessed terrible scenes while in the army, for that is the nature of war," she told Soo-Nyung. "He is haunted by those memories. Fortunately there is a cure, but it requires a whisker plucked from a wild tiger.

When you bring it to me, you shall have the remedy your husband needs."

In a tremulous voice, Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist. The thought of facing a wild tiger filled her with dread, but she loved her husband and this impelled her to follow the herbalist's instructions. She made her way to the tiger's lair, where she was greeted with a terrifying roar that reverberated through the forest. She fled in a panic, convinced that the wild beast was about to tear her limb from limb. Still, she found the courage to return the next day, this time with a piece of red meat. After smelling it suspiciously, the tiger devoured the meat.

Day after day, Soo-Nyung returned with more meat until the tiger grew so accustomed to her that she was finally able to rub its head and tickle its throat without being afraid. At last there came a day when she found the courage to reach out and pluck one of its whiskers. The tiger drew back and growled, but it did not attack her. Triumphant, Soo-Nyung returned to the herbalist with the tiger's whisker, entreating her to prepare the remedy she needed.

The wise herbalist replied that Soo-Nyung had already found the cure. "If you can win the trust of a savage tiger," she said, "surely you can find the patience to regain the affection of your husband, whose heart has been hardened by war."

Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist for teaching her a valuable lesson. In time her patience was rewarded when Liang-Po was restored to his former self.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of 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 we know that the war kept Liang-Po from his family for a long time?

2. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Liang-Po as frangible at the end of the story?

author
 affable
 ardent
 despondent
 earnest
 haughty
 impetuous
 inextinguishable
 inebriated
 profound
 recalcitrant
 sage
 shade
 tremulous

3. Why did Liang-Po's mother want to help?

4. What kind of reputation did the woman have to whom Soo-Nyung went for help?

5. What is the meaning of *amiss* as it is used in the passage?

6. On what occasions did Liang-Po break his silence following his return?

7. Why would Liang-Po's recalcitrant behavior be very hard for the family to deal with?

8. How do we know that Liang-Po probably got along with his neighbors before the war?

9. What was the outcome of Soo-Nyung's entreaty to the herbalist for help?

10. Why was it likely that the tiger's roar startled other animals?

11. Why might Liang-Po have had trouble sleeping after his return?

12. How do we know that farm work was not abhorrent to Soo-Nyung?

13. Who impelled Soo-Nyung to visit the herbalist?

14. What does Liang-Po's snapping at his children tell you of his disposition after the war?

15. What is the meaning of *tremulous* as it is used in the passage?

FIN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Latin word *amissus* meaning "angry" forms the root of several English words having related meanings. He is a specimen for anger. (In a catalogued worded list to the old for names associated. His behavior the same to public and in the den of of loved/love and headbowed)

synonyms for angry: hate suggests a single instance of becoming angry (Karen became hate when she saw that someone had left the gate open to the horse pasture.)

hateable suggests a continuing inability to control one's anger.

