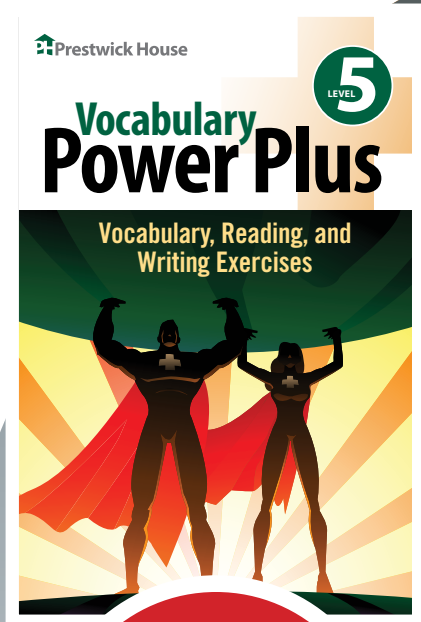




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# Vocabulary Power Plus

Vocabulary, Reading, and  
Writing Exercises

**5**  
LEVEL

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## Introduction

How many words do you know?

100 words?

1,000 words?

10,000 words?

Believe it or not, you will probably know more than 15,000 words by the time you grow up.

Yes, you are that smart. And it's a great thing. Just one little word can express an idea that you might need dozens of other words to describe. For example, explain what *love* or *happiness* is without using those two words. It might take a while, especially if you want people to truly understand the ideas the words represent.

Imagine talking to a group of two- or three-year-old toddlers. They very well may know 1,000 words. If you ask them what they think about something, the answer will be long and, possibly, difficult to understand.

You, older and knowing 5,000 words, have words to describe your idea more clearly. You could answer the same question in seconds instead of minutes. Your answer will probably be much clearer, too. It is even possible that you know a single word that expresses everything the toddlers described.

For the rest of your life, the more words you learn, the better you will be able to communicate. Whether you speak your ideas out loud or write them down on paper, your personal library of words will make your ideas clear and concise. People will understand you, and you will understand other people.

We hope *Vocabulary Power Plus* gives you a great start to building your collection of words. The meanings of words overlap in many ways, so the more words you learn, the better you'll become at learning new ones. The reading passages in this book will help you see how other people use words to express ideas. Some passages will ask you to improve how others use their words.

Have fun, and take pride in building your word library. As your ideas get bigger and bigger, you'll need plenty of words to express them!



## Word List

### Lesson One

abstract  
emblem  
idol  
improper  
inferior  
linger  
resent  
seize  
sever  
tragedy

### Lesson Two

artificial  
custom  
deceive  
dominant  
fertile  
fragrance  
magnify  
quarrel  
rant  
vicious

### Lesson Three

clash  
contradict  
destiny  
envy  
ignorance  
regal  
rigid  
sensation  
substantial  
tolerate

### Lesson Four

acquaint  
betray  
chronological  
dispute  
federal  
feeble  
govern  
longitude  
mope  
vanity

### Lesson Five

decay  
dissatisfied  
distinguished  
emigrate  
facility  
foe  
frigid  
heirloom  
postpone  
timid

### Lesson Six

abandon  
carnivore  
climate  
elementary  
exterminate  
inauguration  
mellow  
revolt  
urban  
verdict

### Lesson Seven

amplify  
emphasize  
extravagant  
finance  
inspire  
majority  
nomad  
preliminary  
radiate  
treacherous

### Lesson Eight

commodity  
hectic  
intend  
invincible  
minority  
remark  
significant  
site  
superstition  
trespass

### Lesson Nine

agitate  
archaeology  
benefit  
conscience  
controversial  
courteous  
descendant  
span  
temporary  
woe

### Lesson Ten

confide  
dejected  
dishearten  
entrepreneur  
frontier  
fugitive  
inquire  
proceed  
swift  
vast

### Lesson Eleven

contrast  
equivalent  
feat  
herbivore  
misleading  
obtain  
rapid  
superb  
turnpike  
vanquish

### Lesson Twelve

campaign  
collision  
communicate  
consistent  
interfere  
native  
poverty  
resolution  
scarce  
simulate



## Lesson One

### abstract

AB-STRAKT

*adj.* existing only as an idea

*Abstract* painters use colors, shapes, and lines to show complex ideas.

*syn:* unreal; theoretical      *ant:* actual; real

### emblem

EM-BLEM

*n.* an image used to represent an idea or group

The car company chose a ram as an *emblem* on its trucks to suggest that they are strong, powerful vehicles.

*syn:* logo; symbol

### idol

IY-DUL

*n.* a person who is excessively admired or worshipped

I would pay a great deal of money to see my musical *idol* perform.

*syn:* celebrity; superstar

### improper

IM-PRAH-PUR

*adj.* not correct in a given situation

Many people think it is *improper* to use a smartphone at the dinner table.

*syn:* unsuitable; wrong      *ant:* proper; right

### inferior

IN-FEER-EE-UR

*adj.* low in value or rank

The *inferior* teams failed to make it into the championships.

*syn:* worse      *ant:* superior; best

### linger

LIN-GUR

*v.* to stay in a place longer than expected or necessary

At the art museum, visitors *lingered* near the most popular sculptures.

*syn:* loiter      *ant:* leave

### resent

REH-ZENT

*v.* to be annoyed or bitter at

You might *resent* me right now for being honest, but you will thank me one day.

*ant:* approve; like



<b>seize</b>	v. to take quickly by force
<b>SEEZ</b>	While I was out of the room, Walter <i>seized</i> my favorite chair. <i>syn: grab; capture</i> <i>ant: release</i>
<b>sever</b>	v. to cut or separate a part from the whole
<b>SEH-VER</b>	The table saw <i>severed</i> Ben's finger, but doctors were able to reattach it. <i>syn: divide; split</i> <i>ant: join; unite</i>
<b>tragedy</b>	n. a situation causing great sadness or loss
<b>TRA-JEH-DEE</b>	The hospital fire was a <i>tragedy</i> that made life worse for people who were already suffering. <i>syn: disaster</i> <i>ant: success</i>

## Exercise I – Words in Context

Using the list of vocabulary words, supply the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. What a[n] \_\_\_\_\_ it was that the country was hit by two earthquakes in a single year.
2. The soldier's silver star medal is a[n] \_\_\_\_\_ of bravery.
3. Miranda went all the way to Canada to hear her \_\_\_\_\_ speak at a convention.
4. How to be happy is a[n] \_\_\_\_\_ idea that many people think about.
5. The princess had her workers build a moat so invaders could not \_\_\_\_\_ her castle.
6. My kitten \_\_\_\_\_ the connection between the computer and the mouse by chewing through the cord.
7. The entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Newcomb for having all the candy removed from the vending machines.
8. Audrey's old bike was just \_\_\_\_\_ when compared to her new one.
9. Sticking your chewing gum under a table is certainly a[n] \_\_\_\_\_ way to get rid of it.
10. The new student \_\_\_\_\_ by the swings until someone invited him to play ball.



## Exercise II – Finish the Sentence

First, choose the ending for each sentence that makes the best sense with the italicized vocabulary word used. Then, write your own ending for each sentence that shows you understand the meaning of the vocabulary word.

1. In the fantasy novel's *abstract* world,...
  - A. the main character battled criminals.
  - B. animals could talk to humans.
2. Rob's jeans were *improper* clothing for the fancy dinner, so...
  - A. he changed into a suit and tie.
  - B. he washed them first.
3. The microwave was of *inferior* quality, and we...
  - A. traded it in for a better one.
  - B. could not wait to use it.
4. The computer company wanted to design an *emblem* that...
  - A. allowed Internet browsers to load faster.
  - B. made their company look big and dependable.
5. When the sports *idol* insulted the president,...
  - A. her fans turned against her.
  - B. no one really noticed.
6. After the *tragedy* caused by the hurricane, many people...
  - A. went to the beach.
  - B. had to rebuild their houses.
7. Sally's cold *lingered* for weeks, and...
  - A. she felt like it would never go away.
  - B. she took medicine for it.
8. Police *seized* Roger's car because he had...
  - A. reported it missing.
  - B. stolen it.





## Exercise IV – Critical Reading

Carefully read the passage and then choose the best answer for each of the questions that follow. The passage contains vocabulary words from the lesson.

Copper is a shiny, reddish material used for wires, pipes, and cooking pans. Most people think of pennies when they think of copper. Few people probably think of the Statue of Liberty. But Lady Liberty is, in fact, made of copper. You wouldn't think so because of her muted green color. However, this national **emblem** wasn't always green. Immigrants saw a golden-red statue on their way to Ellis Island in the late 1800s. So, why, then, is the Statue of Liberty green today?

Lady Liberty was supposed to keep its golden-red coloring. The designer, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, didn't think she would change color. Bartholdi decided his copper statue would be of the Roman goddess Libertas, who was one of the **idols** of the American Revolution. Bartholdi, a Frenchman, wanted to honor America's freedom. He chose to create a tribute to liberty for America's hundredth birthday. He proposed the statue as a gift from France to America.

Construction of the statue started in 1876. It was built in bits and pieces. For example, the head was done in 1878. It was shown at a fair that same year. Small pieces were put on display in America and France until Lady Liberty was finished and assembled in 1884. Then, workers took it apart to send it across the ocean to America. It was finally rebuilt in the United States in 1886. The Statue of Liberty still stands on Liberty Island today, though it looks a little different than it did in the 1880s.

Bartholdi chose copper because it is strong but light. It could be molded to form the statue's face and the folds in her robes, too. Seemingly, the only **inferior** quality of copper is the way it turns light green when exposed to water and air. Water and air cause oxidation. A patina, or a layer of green film, then forms. The statue still had a copper color until around 1900. It hadn't been exposed to enough water and air to have a patina yet, but, by 1906, it was covered in a greenish-blue film.

The government thought about painting the statue to get rid of the color, but Americans liked the new greenish-blue hue, so no changes were made. Also, the patina protects the copper. Removing or covering the green color could damage the landmark. The government even found copper with similar patina to use when some of the older copper had to be replaced. They looked for greenish-blue copper because it would be a **tragedy** to ruin the look of the beautiful, long-lasting statue.

Over the past hundred years, the Statue of Liberty has been carefully restored many times. Most repairs have been inside. Lady Liberty's inside was painted and had broken or loose parts replaced for safety reasons. Her exterior still remains green, though. But no matter its color, the Statue of Liberty endures as a literal representation of the **abstract** concept of freedom on which the United States of America is founded.

