

Lesson One

aggressive

AH-GRES-IV

adj. forceful, often to the point of attack

Polar bears can be *aggressive* animals; there have been many reports claiming that they attack humans.

syn: hostile, combative *ant: easygoing; calm*

appealing

A-PEEL-ING

adj. attractive, interesting, or pleasing

The television commercial made the burger look much more *appealing* than what I got!

syn: charming; agreeable *ant: disgusting; revolting*

brutal

BROO-TUL

adj. cruel, harsh, or demanding

Mrs. Marin's *brutal* comments about Alex's athletic ability nearly made him quit the team.

syn: savage; merciless *ant: kind; polite*

dispute

DIS-PYOOT

v. to argue against a belief or idea

All the students *disputed* the schoolwide ban on candy.

syn: challenge; contradict *ant: agree*

distribute

DIS-TRIB-YOOT

v. to give or hand out, especially among a group

The mail carrier's job is to *distribute* letters to all the houses.

syn: deliver; spread *ant: collect; gather*

encounter

EN-COWN-TUR

v. to meet or experience, often unexpectedly

If you *encounter* Nathan on the way to the store, tell him I said hello.

syn: confront; face *ant: avoid*

enthusiasm

EN-THOO-ZEE-A-ZUM

n. excitement or interest in a certain activity

Jake's Pittsburgh Steelers jacket and hat showed his *enthusiasm* for the team.

syn: spirit *ant: boredom*

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portion*n.* any part of the whole

POR-SHUN

I want only a *portion* of that piece of cake; you can have the rest.*syn:* fragment; share *ant:* whole**routine***n.* a repeated behavior or series of actions

ROO-TEEN

Tammy's morning *routine* includes brushing her teeth and combing her hair.*syn:* habit; method**taunt***v.* to say or do mean things in an effort to make someone angry

TAWNT

If you *taunt* that tiger, it might decide to bite you.*syn:* provoke; tease *ant:* praise; respect**Exercise I – Words in Context**

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

1. The dog started growling when the kids began to _____ him.
2. It is common to _____ a black squirrel in the Midwest.
3. Tisha practiced her figure skating _____ at least five times a week.
4. Would you please _____ this handout to everyone in class?
5. Flowers covered the field, except for the _____ where the house was being built.
6. The crowd, full of _____ for the band, held up colorful hand-made posters.
7. The _____ car salesman would not accept no for an answer.
8. The _____ review of the new movie convinced many people that it wasn't worth seeing.
9. It is hard to _____ the need for good education in America.
10. The _____ smell of fresh brownies filled the dining room.



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. Ty began *taunting* Jane about her glasses, and...
 - A. she eventually lost her temper.
 - B. she laughed along with him.
2. To Leah, the *appealing* trip...
 - A. was simply just too expensive.
 - B. was sure to make her smile.
3. After learning that his car had been broken into, the *aggressive* man...
 - A. immediately yelled that he would hurt the people who did it.
 - B. took a few deep breaths and then smiled at his problem.
4. The mayor asked his assistant if she would *distribute*...
 - A. the time of day.
 - B. the new campaign flyers.
5. The comedian had so much *enthusiasm* that the crowd...
 - A. booed every time he tried to speak.
 - B. strained to hear every word.
6. When the hikers *encountered* a bear,...
 - A. they imagined what one would look like up close.
 - B. it seemed much bigger than the ones they saw on TV.
7. An exercise *routine* is necessary because...
 - A. regular exercise will ensure good health.
 - B. doing different exercises is enjoyable.
8. The *brutal* conditions of the Arctic winter were...
 - A. a nice change from the typical, predictable weather.
 - B. difficult even for people used to harsh winters.

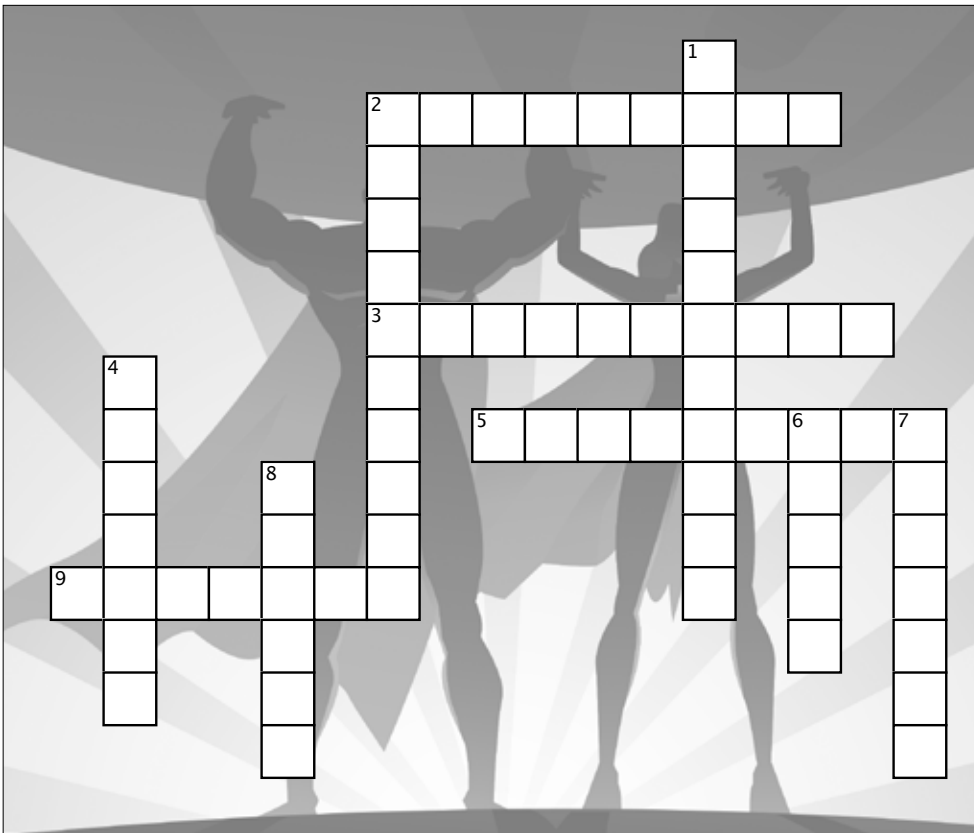


- 9.** After Thomas gave me the largest *portion* of the pizza, I...
- A. asked if someone else wanted it because I had just eaten.
 - B. ate the whole pizza all by myself almost immediately.
- 10.** Irene wanted to *dispute* the price of the rug because...
- A. she was very impressed with the good deal.
 - B. she knew that it had been on sale the day before.



Exercise III – Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues and the words from this lesson to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

2. The Boston Cream doughnut looked extremely _____, especially after I had given up sweets.
3. Jan's _____ and energy made her the perfect cheerleader.
5. After watching the scary movie, I was sure I would _____ a monster during the walk home.
9. Even though he had cheated, Barry tried to _____ his failing grade.

Down

1. By eight o'clock, we had _____ all the Halloween candy.
2. My football team lost 54-0, and the coach said we needed to be more _____.
4. One _____ of the farm was strictly for sheep.
6. Joanie was going to _____ the new kid about his worn-out shoes, but I stopped her before she hurt his feelings.
7. If I don't have a steady _____ in my life, I frequently forget things.
8. Walking through the blizzard proved to be too _____ for the weakened animals.



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.

When someone thinks of Ireland, he or she might think of folk dancing, green landscapes dotted with sheep, and ancient castles. There are also rock formations that attract thousands of visitors to the rainy countryside every year. One of the most beautiful attractions is located on the coast of Northern Ireland in County Antrim. It's called the Giant's Causeway.

After tourists descend a steep canyon, they reach the edge of the water. They then can see tens of thousands of hexagonal columns that naturally occur along the coast. These honeycomb-shaped rocks are the result of a volcanic eruption that happened over 60 million years ago. The lava cooled and got smaller in an uneven way. As the columns contracted over the centuries, they formed the six-sided stones that tourists walk on and take pictures of. We have a scientific explanation for the strange formation. Irish legends surrounding the rocks tell a completely different story, though.

According to folklore, a giant by the name of Finn McCool left his home one day to investigate a noise. Looking across to the opposite shore, Finn saw another giant named Benandonner. He yelled names and insults at Finn. Finn and Benandonner argued angrily. Neither giant liked being mocked. The **aggressive** Finn picked up a mound of earth and threw it at his tormentor. The land that fell into the sea became the Isle of Man. The huge hole left behind slowly filled with water. It became Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles. The Scottish giant **taunted** Finn, explaining that he could not swim. Otherwise, he would have made his way across and taught Finn a lesson.

Finn used the six-sided rocks around him to build a path from Ireland to Scotland so the two giants could end their **dispute**. Benandonner began to walk across. As the giant approached, though, Finn's courage vanished. From across the water, Benandonner had seemed small. As he neared, his great size became very obvious.

In a panic, Finn ran home and told his wife what had happened. She quickly threw a blanket over Finn and put a bonnet on his head. When Benandonner arrived at their house, she invited him inside. She told him her husband was out hunting. He could meet their son in the meantime. The "son" was, of course, Finn. Benandonner could only imagine how huge the father would be if his baby was so big. Unwilling to **encounter** such a massive giant, Benandonner ran out of the house. He destroyed the causeway as he fled. The path was gone forever.

Two large **portions** of hexagonal rocks still exist to tell the tale. One is on the Irish coast and the other on Scotland's coast.



Exercise IV – Critical Reading Questions

1. The passage describes Finn McCool as
 - A. a husband who will do anything for his wife.
 - B. someone who is always looking for a fight.
 - C. a wanderer searching for a path to Scotland.
 - D. a strong giant who fails to think his actions through.
 - E. a hero who has been teased because of his small size his whole life.

2. Choose the type of rock that forms the structures at the Giant's Causeway.
 - A. granite
 - B. limestone
 - C. lava
 - D. concrete
 - E. marble

3. As it is used in line 10, the word *contracted* means
 - A. shrank.
 - B. raised.
 - C. copied.
 - D. weakened.
 - E. tightened.

4. Finn was saved from Benandonner thanks to
 - A. a storm that swept through the Sea of Moyle.
 - B. the unique shape of the stones.
 - C. his wife's clever plan to dress him like a baby.
 - D. his own poor construction of the causeway.
 - E. Benandonner's fear of children.

5. Choose the line from the passage that best supports your answer to the previous question.
 - A. "These honeycomb-shaped rocks are a result of a volcanic eruption that happened over 60 million years ago." (lines 8-9)
 - B. "The Scottish giant taunted Finn, explaining that he could not swim. Otherwise, he would have made his way across and taught Finn a lesson." (lines 20-22)
 - C. "...Benandonner ran out of the house. He destroyed the causeway as he fled." (lines 32-33)
 - D. "Finn used the six-sided rocks around him to build a path from Ireland to Scotland..." (line 23)
 - E. "Benandonner could only imagine how huge the father would be if his baby was so big." (lines 30-31)

