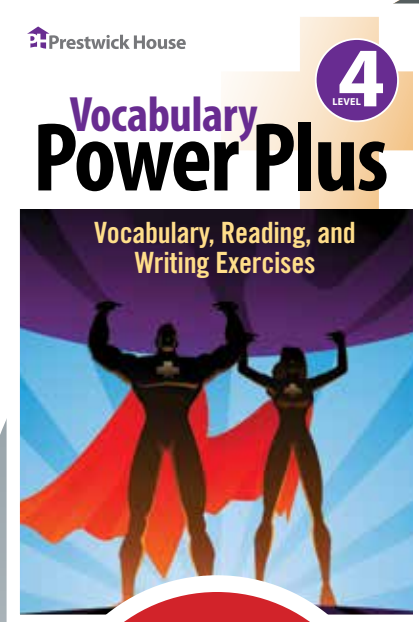




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# Vocabulary Power Plus

Vocabulary, Reading, and  
Writing Exercises



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# Vocabulary Power Plus

**4**  
LEVEL

Vocabulary, Reading, and  
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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

aggressive  
appealing  
brutal  
dispute  
distribute  
encounter  
enthusiasm  
portion  
routine  
taunt

### Lesson Two

burden  
collapse  
edible  
inhabit  
instant  
negative  
numeral  
obvious  
persuade  
quality

### Lesson Three

advantage  
civilization  
combat  
instruct  
massive  
nonsense  
ordinary  
request  
severe  
smuggle

### Lesson Four

convict  
dangerous  
detect  
exhaust  
hilarious  
incident  
local  
pity  
rely  
sorcerer

### Lesson Five

abrupt  
approval  
deny  
determination  
duplicate  
myth  
pure  
rotate  
sorrowful  
wicked

### Lesson Six

camouflage  
cancel  
crisis  
expand  
gleeful  
kin  
opponent  
productive  
rejoice  
supreme

### Lesson Seven

complex  
constant  
gaze  
neglect  
passage  
property  
reject  
review  
source  
uneasy

### Lesson Eight

burrow  
despise  
expectation  
flaw  
flexible  
heroic  
permanent  
ridiculous  
satisfy  
sprout

### Lesson Nine

autobiography  
compact  
disregard  
employ  
focus  
moisture  
penalty  
portable  
pounce  
tidy

### Lesson Ten

atmosphere  
dull  
eager  
elevate  
familiar  
maximum  
obey  
recommend  
scatter  
security

### Lesson Eleven

audible  
desperate  
effect  
identify  
interior  
interrupt  
quantity  
strive  
typical  
weary

### Lesson Twelve

alternate  
announce  
beware  
function  
glacier  
gorgeous  
parasite  
positive  
symbol  
toxic



## Lesson One

### aggressive

UH-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

UH-PEEL-EENG

*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-KOWN-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-ZIM

*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*

<b>portion</b>	<i>n.</i> any part of the whole
<b>POR-SHUN</b>	I want only a <i>portion</i> of that piece of cake; you can have the rest. <i>syn: fragment; share</i> <i>ant: whole</i>
<b>routine</b>	<i>n.</i> a repeated behavior or series of actions
<b>ROO-TEEN</b>	Tammy's morning <i>routine</i> includes brushing her teeth and combing her hair. <i>syn: habit; method</i>
<b>taunt</b>	<i>v.</i> to say or do mean things in an effort to make someone angry
<b>TAWNT</b>	If you <i>taunt</i> that tiger, it might decide to bite you. <i>syn: provoke; tease</i> <i>ant: praise; respect</i>

## Exercise I – Words in Context

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

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





## 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.

