



Word List

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

accustom
ə kus' təm

v. To make familiar.

Every fall the students **accustom** themselves to the new schedule.**accustomed** *adj.* 1. Usual.We sat in our **accustomed** places.

2. Used to.

My eyes soon became **accustomed** to the dark.**alert**
ə lɜrt'*adj.* Watchful; wide-awake.The shortstop was not **alert** and missed the catch.

v. To warn to be ready.

A sign **alerted** drivers to the flooded road ahead.*n.* A warning signal.Because of the forest fires, the nearby towns have a fire **alert**.**assign**
ə sin'

v. 1. To select for a position or for what has to be done.

For this year's basketball team, the coach **assigned** me to play as a forward.

2. To give out, as a piece of work to be done.

Our science teacher usually **assigns** two chapters a week as homework.**assignment** *n.* Whatever is given out as work to be done.What was the **assignment** for tomorrow's history class?**budge**
buj

v. To move or shift.

The old metal trunk was so heavy we could not **budge** it.**burly**
bɜr' le*adj.* Big and strongly built.Most football players are quite **burly**.**companion**
kəm pan' yən*n.* One who spends time with or does things with another.My grandmother was always an interesting **companion** when we went to the city for the day.**compatible**
kəm pat' ə bəl*adj.* Getting along well together.Julie and I didn't mind sharing a room because we were so **compatible**.

concept
kän' sept

n. A general idea or thought about something.
In designing the stage set for the school play, I started with the **concept** of a Japanese tea house.

distract
di strakt'

v. To draw one's thoughts or attention away from the subject at hand.
The police sirens **distracted** me, so I didn't hear what you said.
distraction *n.* Something that draws one's thoughts or attention away.
I do my homework during study period when there are no **distractions**.

jostle
jas' əl

v. To push or shove.
I dropped my packages when someone in the crowd **jostled** me.

obedient
ō be' dē ənt

adj. Doing what one is asked or told.
When giving orders, a ship's captain expects the crew to be **obedient**.
obedience *n.* The state or condition of doing what one is told.
We are trying to teach our Labrador retriever **obedience**.

obstacle
əb' stə kəl

n. Something that prevents one from moving forward.
The **obstacle** holding up traffic was a tree blown over by last night's storm.

patient
pā' shənt

adj. Willing to wait without complaining.
The audience was very **patient** even though the show started thirty minutes late.
n. A person in a doctor's care.
The **patients** in this part of the hospital are recovering from operations.
patience *n.* A willingness to wait for someone or something without complaining.
Having to stand in line for an hour to buy tickets really tested my **patience**.

pedestrian
pə des' trē ən

n. A person who is walking; someone traveling on foot.
Pedestrians should use the crosswalk to avoid accidents.

retire
rē tīr'

v. 1. To stop working because one has reached a certain age.
The jewelry company usually gives its workers a small gift when they **retire**.
2. To go to bed.
I was not feeling well, so I **retired** early.
retirement *n.* The state of no longer working.
My Uncle Eli regularly saved money for his **retirement**.