

Lesson 4

For more practice and games, go to www.WordlyWise3000.com.



Word List

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

active
ak' tiv

adj. 1. Taking part; working.

Luis has been an **active** member of the chess club for two years.

2. Lively; quick; busy.

Even though she is over ninety, Dr. O'Brien still has a very **active** mind.

3. Moving a lot; moving quickly.

Since I've been more physically **active**, I can run around the track more easily.

astound
ə stound'

v. To surprise; to amaze.

The United States **astounded** the world in 1969 by landing people on the moon.

astounding *adj.* Very surprising.

The report of flying saucers landing on the White House lawn would be **astounding** if it were true.

attend
ə tend'

v. 1. To go to or be present at.

If you are planning to **attend** the lunchroom committee meeting, please let Mr. Minh know.

2. To pay attention to.

The judge asked the jury to **attend** carefully to what she was going to say.

cherish
cher' ish

v. 1. To cling to an idea or feeling.

Ramona **cherished** the hope that her father would return soon.

2. To take good care of; to love.

I **cherish** the gold watch my grandfather gave me.

contract
kən trakt'

v. 1. To make an agreement that has the force of law.

We **contracted** with carpenters to repair the stairs.

2. To get; to come to have.

When I **contracted** chicken pox, Dr. Robey told me I had to stay away from other people.

3. To make or become smaller.

By 1828, Cherokee lands had **contracted** to one-tenth the size they had been a hundred years earlier.

n. (kən' trakt) An agreement that has the force of law.

Tom has just signed a **contract** with a publisher for his first book on the copper miners.

eager
ē' gər

adj. Wanting very much.

We were **eager** to take part in the science project.

eagerly *adv.* With a great deal of enthusiasm, wanting.

We **eagerly** awaited the arrival of our cousins, whom we hadn't seen in several months.

expose
ek spōz'

v. 1. To make known.

In her weekly newspaper column, Molly Ivins **exposed** the plan to cut health benefits.

2. To open to view.

Cleaning the painting **exposed** the original colors.

3. To leave unprotected.

Since I had no place to keep my bike, I had to leave it outside, **exposed** to the weather.

grace
grās

n. 1. Beauty of form or movement.

Margot Fonteyn danced with such **grace** that she was hailed as one of the world's greatest ballerinas.

2. A short prayer said before a meal.

They always say **grace** in her family.

3. An extra period to do or pay something.

The painters had three days' **grace** to finish the house.

graceful *adj.* Having beauty of movement.

With a **graceful** leap, the cat landed on my lap.

impose
im pōz'

v. 1. To force someone to accept or put up with.

The new coach **imposed** strict rules about arriving late or leaving practice early.

2. To take unfair advantage of.

I try not to **impose** on my mother's good nature.

modest
mä' dəst

adj. 1. Not thinking too highly of oneself.

Nadia was too **modest** to accept all the credit for her part in producing the play.

2. Simple; not fancy or extreme.

The Wallmans lived in the same **modest** apartment all their lives.

modesty *n.* The quality of being modest.

My sense of **modesty** keeps me from taking too much credit for the project's success.

parallel
par' ə lel

adj. Lying in the same direction and always the same distance apart.

The two edges of a ruler are **parallel**.

paralyze
par' ə līz

v. 1. To stop all movement or feeling in.

As the huge wave approached, fear **paralyzed** people walking at the water's edge and they stood there motionless.

2. To make helpless or powerless.

The snowstorm **paralyzed** Washington, D.C., for five days.

paralysis (pə ra' lə səs) *n.* Condition of being paralyzed.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a wheelchair because of the **paralysis** of his legs.

pessimist
pe' sə mīst

n. A person who expects things to turn out badly.

A **pessimist** carries an umbrella even though the forecast is for fine weather.

pessimistic *adj.* Not having hope, joy, or confidence; gloomy.

After losing her librarian's job, Ms. Merkelson was **pessimistic** about finding another library position in the same town.

recite
ri sīt'

v. To say aloud before an audience, usually from memory.

Rozzie **recited** her favorite Emily Dickinson poem to the class.

recital *n.* A program of music or dance.

I felt very nervous before my ballet **recital**.

respond
ri spānd'

v. To answer.

When you want to **respond** to a question, please raise your hand.

response *n.* Something said or done in reply.

Henry took a few moments to think before giving his **response** to Mr. Bartlett's question.