

**Word List**

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

alter
ôl' tər

v. To change in some way; to make or become different.

Let's **alter** our uniforms so they will fit better.**alteration** *n.* A change.Please don't make any **alterations** in my newspaper column.**confuse**
kən fyōōz'

v. 1. To make or become unclear or mixed up in the mind.

That math problem totally **confused** me.

2. To mistake one person or thing for another.

I always **confuse** Sally with her twin sister Samantha.**confusing** *adj.* Hard to follow or understand; unclear.The play was **confusing** at first, but I began to understand it in the second act.**confusion** *n.* A state of disorder.After the playoff game, the dressing room was total **confusion**.**distribute**
di strib' yoot

v. 1. To give out; to divide among several or many.

Ahmed **distributed** programs before the concert.

2. To be spread over.

Small parks are **distributed** throughout London.**eject**
i jekt'

v. To force or throw out.

When the seventh graders refused to listen, the coach **ejected** them from the team meeting.**embrace**
im brās'

v. 1. To hold closely in one's arms; to hug.

My parents **embraced** me when I got off the plane.

2. To take up seriously.

We **embraced** the idea of smaller classes, but lacked the teachers to carry it out.*n.* A hug.At the end of the movie, the hero and the heroine were locked in an **embrace**.

equip
i kwip'

v. To provide with what is needed.
All new cars now come **equipped** with airbags.

equipment n. Things that are needed for some activity.
Sarah bought all her camping **equipment** at yard sales.

flexible
flek' sə bəl

adj. 1. Able to bend easily.
Dancers and gymnasts have very **flexible** bodies.

2. Able to adjust to new or different situations.
Antonio is so **flexible** he can get along with anyone.

instant
in' stənt

n. A moment; a very short period of time.
It took Luis only an **instant** to calculate the amount of paint we would need.

adj. Happening or done at once; quick.
He gave an **instant** "yes" to her offer.

keen
kēn

adj. 1. Having a sharp edge.
The **keen** blade of the knife sliced through the thick rope with ease.

2. Showing a strong interest; eager.
Marta signed up for lessons because she was **keen** to learn to play the guitar.

3. Having sharp senses; quick to understand.
With her **keen** mind, she was able to master physics with ease.

limp
limp

v. To walk lamely or in an uneven way.
I **limped** for two weeks after I fell on the ice.

n. An uneven or lopsided walk.
She walked very fast, in spite of her **limp**.

adj. Not stiff or firm.
His handshake was as **limp** as a wet rag.

scurry
skur' ē

v. To move quickly, with rapid little steps.
The chipmunk **scurried** up the tree as we approached.

seize
sēz

v. 1. To grasp suddenly; to grab hold of.
He **seized** my hand and begged me not to go.

2. To take by force of the law.
The government can **seize** many of the things you own if you do not pay your taxes.

shallow
sha' lō

adj. 1. Not deep.

We went wading in a **shallow** stream.

2. With little seriousness or deep thought.

He tried to sound intelligent, but his arguments were really quite **shallow**.

surround
sə raund'

v. To enclose on all sides.

The prison was **surrounded** by a high fence.

surroundings *n. pl.* The things or conditions around a person or place.

The hotel's peaceful **surroundings** made it a perfect place to relax.

victim
vik' təm

n. One who is hurt, killed, or suffers.

The scoundrel tried to deny that he had cheated his **victims** of their life savings.

