

Lesson 9

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



Word List

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

advantage
əd van' tɪj

n. Something that is helpful or useful.

It is an **advantage** to be able to speak French when visiting Paris.

take advantage of *v.* To make use of; to benefit oneself by treating others unfairly.

Martina **took advantage of** her position as camp leader by giving all the best jobs to her friends.

astonish
əstə' nɪʃ

v. To surprise or amaze.

It **astonished** me to discover that my new friend and I were born on the same day in the same town.

astonishment *n.* Great surprise or amazement.

The children watched in **astonishment** as the magician pulled a rabbit out of a hat.

confirm
kən fɛr'm

v. 1. To show or prove to be true.

Before giving me a library card, the librarian asked me to **confirm** my street address by showing a copy of my phone bill.

2. To approve or give one's agreement to.

The members of Congress vote to **confirm** the appointment of Supreme Court judges.

distant
dɪs' tənt

adj. 1. Very far away in time.

Space travel in the very **distant** future may involve journeys to the stars.

2. Very far away; not near or close by.

Marco Polo's travels took him to many **distant** lands.

distance *n.* The length of the space between two places.

The **distance** between Deneen's home and her school was exactly one mile.

founder
faʊn' dər

n. A person who sets up something that lasts.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are two of the **founders** of our nation.

v. To sink below the surface of the water.

The ship struck a rock and **foundered** before a rescue team could reach it.

hamlet
həm' lət

n. A small village.

A single street ran through the **hamlet**, which had one church, a general store, and about a hundred houses.

host *n.* 1. A large number.
Graceland is visited by **hosts** of people from all over the world who come to see the house where Elvis Presley lived.

2. One who greets and entertains guests and takes care of their needs at a party or restaurant.
The guests said goodbye to their **host** and thanked him for a lovely New Year's Eve party.

misgiving *n.* A feeling of doubt, uncertainty, or concern about what may happen in the future.
If Ellen had any **misgivings** about joining the group, she gave no sign of it.

parch *v.* To make or become very dry.
The sun **parched** the fields and made the grass turn brown.

parched (*pärcht*) *adj.* Lacking water; thirsty.
We didn't take enough water with us, and we were **parched** before we came to the end of our walk.

prospect *n.* Something that is waited for, expected, or hoped for.
All the hotels were full, and there seemed little **prospect** of our finding a place to spend the night.

v. To look in the ground for valuable metals like gold and silver.
The four men camped alongside the river told us they were **prospecting** for gold.

prospector *n.* A person who explores an area to look for valuable metals.
The **prospector** let out a whoop of joy when he saw some shiny yellow objects lying on the riverbank.

scarce *adj.* In short supply; not plentiful.
When gasoline is **scarce**, the price goes up.

scarcity (*sker' sät ē*) *n.* A shortage.
Due to the **scarcity** of candles in the store when the hurricane struck, customers were allowed only two each.

shrewd *adj.* Clever; good at understanding what is needed and acting on it.
A **shrewd** lawyer prepares her client to answer questions she knows the client will be asked in court.

sole *adj.* Being the only one of its kind; belonging to only one person or group.
söl After her husband died, Mrs. Mazoor became the **sole** owner of the toy store.

n. 1. The bottom surface of the foot or of a shoe or boot.
Shoes with leather **soles** usually cost more than those made of plastic.

2. A flat fish that is caught and eaten for food.
Grilled **sole** is a popular item on the seafood restaurant's menu.

torment *n.* Great pain or suffering.
tôr' ment I cannot imagine the **torment** suffered by a wild animal caught in a steel trap.

(*tôr ment'*) *v.* To cause pain or suffering.
The thought that she might have been the cause of the accident **tormented** the driver of the car.

typical *adj.* Being like others of its kind.
tip' i kəl A **typical** home in this area has three bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and one bathroom.