

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 22 Using Definitions

Literature is filled with tales of quests. From the lofty search for the Holy Grail by the knights of the Round Table to the tender journey of animal companions attempting to find their way home, characters hunt, explore, seek, scout, and experience. The words in this lesson will help you to dramatize their pursuits and yours.

Word List

fraught

frivolous

gratify

momentum

narrate

serendipity

torrid

ultimate

vigilant

wend

EXERCISE A Definitions

Circle the letter for the correct definition of the boldfaced word.

- The football player's **momentum** carried him over the goal line for a touchdown.
 - teammates
 - personal code
 - impulsive behavior
 - force of motion
- "This undertaking is **fraught** with danger, but if anyone can rescue the princess, it is you, sire," the magician told the prince.
 - filled
 - turned aside by
 - influenced by
 - encouraged
- The children stayed close to the path as they **wended** their way through the forest.
 - lost
 - muddled
 - proceeded along
 - stumbled
- While most people ignored the sign that read "Serious Requests," hopeful consumers lined up in front of the banner that read "**Frivolous** Wishes."
 - lighthearted
 - charitable
 - unmistakable
 - familiar
- Considering that he rarely pays attention to anything other than fish, Lowell's discovery of the gold doubloon while scuba diving in Mexico could be attributed only to **serendipity**.
 - good eyesight
 - luck
 - careful planning
 - divine protection
- Lani exhibited the **ultimate** courage when she returned to the burning barn to rescue the kittens.
 - welcome
 - least possible
 - greatest possible
 - surprising
- The work of the club members means that the community will have a day-care center, which will **gratify** many club members.
 - horrify
 - please
 - defeat
 - embarrass
- Many people in the audience could not determine the point of view from which the story was **narrated**.
 - brought to a close
 - classified
 - expected to begin
 - told
- The **vigilant** security guard noticed the open window and thwarted the burglary.
 - watchful
 - untrained
 - careless
 - distracted

Vocabulary Power *continued*

10. While some soap opera fans appreciate the complicated story lines, others tune in regularly because of the **torrid** love scenes.
- a. silly b. passionate c. unrealistic d. brave

EXERCISE B Context Clues

If the boldfaced word is correctly used in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through it and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

1. It was pure **momentum** that brought the twins together after twenty years of being raised separately.
2. Traveling to Central America is more practical during January and February before the days become too **torrid** for enjoyable exploring.
3. If you are very **frivolous**, you might spot a rare scarlet macaw.
4. Many parents are taking a more active role in what their children do on the computer, censoring games **fraught** with violence.
5. Instead of going straight to dinner, we decided to **narrate** our way through the charming, old streets that surrounded the square.
6. Hector mentally prepared for the **gratified** test of his courage—leaping from the tiny ledge into the rushing water twenty feet below.
7. The court system is filled with **frivolous** lawsuits, such as those brought by prisoners who want better food and more movies.
8. Once the mountain climbers rested in the meadow, they lost their **momentum** and decided not to push on for the peak.
9. As we listened to Maria **narrate** the story of her life, we were struck by the number of coincidences that had influenced her decisions.
10. With the government’s help to **gratify** his request, Mr. Sokaler was able to find his daughter.

EXERCISE C Usage

Many English words derive from place names. Using a dictionary, identify the origin of the word *serendipity*. Write a brief overview of your findings in the space below. Based on this information, explain the modern usage of the word.
