

Lesson 3

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

curtail

kər tāl'

v. To cut short or reduce.

The performance was **curtailed** when a fire broke out in the theater.

discriminate

dɪ skrɪm' i nāt

v. 1. To make or recognize clear distinctions.

During hunting season, it's prudent for hikers to wear orange so that hunters can easily **discriminate** between people and other animals.

2. To treat in a less or more favorable way.

Some employers still **discriminate** against women by paying them less than their male counterparts.

discrimination n. 1. The recognizing of clear distinctions.

It's helpful to make a **discrimination** between what you think you want and what you really need.

2. The act of making a distinction in favor of or against a person or thing on the basis of the group or category rather than according to actual merit.

Federal law prohibits **discrimination** based on race or creed.

3. The act of making fine distinctions; good or refined taste.

Your penchant for garish attire shows a lack of **discrimination**.

espionage

es' pē ə nāzh

n. The act of spying, especially a government spy obtaining secrets of another government.

Counterintelligence specialists use their knowledge of high-tech spying equipment to thwart acts of **espionage**.

inalienable

in āl' yən ə bəl

adj. Not able to be taken or given away.

United States citizens are promised certain **inalienable** rights that are spelled out in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

incarcerate

in kār' sər āt

v. To confine or to put in prison.

Maximum security prisoners were **incarcerated** on Alcatraz, an island in San Francisco Bay, until 1963.

incarceration n.

His **incarceration** lasted five years, after which he was a free man.

indignity

in dig' nə tē

n. An insult to one's pride; offensive or humiliating treatment.

His mother waited until they got home to reprimand her son, in order to spare him the **indignity** of being criticized in front of his friends.

indiscriminate

in dɪ skrɪm' i nət

adj. Not marked by careful distinctions; haphazard.

She was an **indiscriminate** reader and devoured everything from comics to history books.

infamous

in' fə məs

adj. 1. Having a very bad reputation; notorious.

The CIA's **infamous** agent, Aldrich Ames, sold compromising information to the Soviets that cost the lives of many Soviet secret agents.

2. Disgraceful; vicious.

The defendant was charged with an **infamous** crime.

infamy n. (in' fə mē)

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln was an act of **infamy**.

intercede

in tər sēd'

v. To act or plead on another's behalf; to try to smooth the differences between two parties.
Instead of **interceding**, my parents encouraged my brother and me to resolve our differences on our own.

malign

mə līn'

v. To say negative and unfair things about; slander.
The proprietor thought **maligning** his competitor's products would boost his own sales.
adj. Evil; showing ill will.
The **malign** look he gave me expressed his anger.

perpetrate

pə r' pə trāt

v. To commit, as a crime or other antisocial act.
The con artist was guilty of **perpetrating** a minor scam.
perpetrator n.
I couldn't figure out who the **perpetrator** was until the end of the mystery.

rampant

rəm pənt

adj. Threateningly wild, without restraint or control; widespread.
The **rampant** vines covered the slope and began to climb the surrounding trees.

rancor

rənʃ kər

n. A deep, long-held feeling of hatred or bitterness.
His **rancor** for the group turned him into its implacable foe.

reparation

rep ə r' ə shən

n. 1. A mending or repair.
The building needed major **reparation** after the tornado.
2. (usually plural) A making up or payment for a wrong or damage done, especially in the case of an international war.
Iraq was required to pay **reparations** to Kuwait after the Gulf War.

smattering

smat' ə r ij

n. 1. Superficial, scattered knowledge.
He picked up a **smattering** of Spanish while in Mexico.
2. A small amount.
She wrote thousands of letters, of which only a **smattering** have been published.

3A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. Something that is **inalienable** is so strange that it's unrecognizable.

2. To **intercede** is to seize something while it is on its way.

3. **Reparations** are compensation for injury caused.

4. **Incarceration** is the act of burning something to ashes.

5. To **perpetrate** a rumor is to keep repeating it so that it doesn't die down.

6. To **discriminate** is to perceive differences.

7. An **indignity** is something that boosts one's self-esteem.

8. A **smattering** is an exchange of gossip or idle talk.

9. To **curtail** someone's authority is to diminish it.

10. **Infamous** behavior is shocking or brutal.

11. A **rampant** disease is one that spreads wildly.

12. To **malign** something is to make sure it is straight.

13. **Rancor** is deep, long-standing spite.

14. **Espionage** is the obtaining of information by spying.

curtail
discriminate
espionage
inalienable
incarcerate
indignity
indiscriminate
infamous
intercede
malign
perpetrate
rampant
rancor
reparation
smattering

15. An **indiscriminate** policy is one that ignores particular circumstances.

3B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

1. **discriminate**

- (a) It's difficult to _____ the different colors in this poor light.
(b) We do not _____ against older persons in our hiring practices.
(c) A five-year-old may be too young to _____ clearly between right and wrong.

2. **intercede**

- (a) When Carmen needed a new job, I offered to _____ on her behalf.
(b) I was able to _____ the package before it was delivered.
(c) If the rain stops, the floodwaters will begin to _____ in a day or so.

3. **malign**

- (a) I will not allow him to _____ my friend with these spurious stories.
(b) Despite his denials, I believe he acted out of _____ motives.
(c) Bryant must improve these _____ test scores if he wants to go to college.

4. **reparation**

- (a) The damage to the property was so great as to be beyond _____.
(b) Lawrence's neighbor was ordered to pay him \$1,000 as _____ for the damage she caused to his lawn.
(c) Joey received a small _____ for helping out around the farm.

5. **inalienable**

- (a) Freedom of speech is considered to be an _____ right in the United States.
(b) Mark's _____ attitude makes him appear unusually competent.
(c) It is an _____ rule in this house that family members take turns washing dishes.

6. **infamous**

- (a) It's hard to remain _____ when you're the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.
(b) Several books have been written about the _____ crime boss Al Capone.
(c) Appearing on late-night talk shows is an _____ act.

7. rampant

- (a) Illegal drug use became _____ as social conditions deteriorated.
 (b) Traffic on the highway is especially _____ during the morning rush hours.
 (c) The bull, _____ and ready to charge at any moment, snorted fiercely.

8. indiscriminate

- (a) Some cats are quite _____ about what they bring into the house.
 (b) The _____ use of pesticides caused great harm to wildlife.
 (c) Charlie's parents are concerned about his _____ television viewing habits.

3C Word Study

Choose from the two words provided and use each word only once. One space should be left blank.

curtail/reduce

1. Candidates will _____ political activity during the period of official mourning.
 2. If you _____ the price to a dollar apiece, you'll sell more.
 3. Global warming causes the polar ice caps to _____.

equilibrium/balance

4. The Treaty of Vienna maintained Europe's political _____ for a century.
 5. The ball begins to drop when it loses its _____.
 6. Sue lost her _____ while learning to walk on stilts.

rampant/widespread

7. By 1800, the use of paper money was _____ throughout North America.
 8. Under these appallingly dirty conditions, it's no wonder that disease was _____.
 9. The rooms in the palace were _____ with gold plating.

gratuitous/unnecessary

10. Leaving a tip for excellent service is _____.
 11. Calling your uncle "Old Scrooge" was an unkind and _____ remark.
 12. The mechanic denied performing _____ car repairs.

spurious/false

13. The police questioned the man in the blue van, but it turned out to be a _____ lead.
 14. Half of her answers were correct and half were _____.
 15. These counterfeit hundred-dollar bills are _____ currency.

curtail
 discriminate
 espionage
 inalienable
 incarcerate
 indignity
 indiscriminate
 infamous
 intercede
 malign
 perpetrate
 rampant
 rancor
 reparation
 smattering

3D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. **curtail**

- (a) The store closes three hours earlier during the off-season.
- (b) My grandparents often go on long road trips in the spring.
- (c) Major suppliers have cut the cost of heating oil by five cents a gallon.

2. **perpetrate**

- (a) We found out it was the boy next door who made those crank phone calls.
- (b) Scholars argue about who really started World War I.
- (c) They take pride in maintaining their family traditions.

3. **rancor**

- (a) I'll never forgive Sandy for betraying my trust.
- (b) The apple was so sour that I was unable to take more than one bite.
- (c) The discussion was marred by wild accusations of criminal wrongdoing.

4. **indignity**

- (a) Ruby objected strongly when a boy tried to get in front of her in line.
- (b) Sam felt foolish riding a donkey when everyone else was riding beautiful horses.
- (c) It was unfair of the club owner to fire the manager in public.

5. **espionage**

- (a) The foreign agent was caught in the act taking photographs of top-secret documents.
- (b) Secret wiretaps revealed the nation's confidential plans.
- (c) The covert destruction of property was an act of cowardice.

6. **discrimination**

- (a) Cara is careful to choose books that are at the right reading level for her students.
- (b) The thief gave the police the names of those who had helped him break in.
- (c) There were once separate drinking fountains for "whites" and "coloreds" in the United States.

7. **intercede**

- (a) Cinderella got help from her fairy godmother when she needed it most.
- (b) The medicine the doctor gave me had me on my feet in no time.
- (c) My application would have been rejected had it not been for Beth's recommendation letter.

8. **smattering**

- (a) She knew just enough Portuguese to get by while she was in Lisbon.
- (b) Of the ninety plays he wrote, fewer than six have survived.
- (c) Marla didn't see the banana on the street and rolled right over it with her bike.

9. **indiscriminate**

- (a) Men and women should be treated equally when it comes to promotions and pay.
- (b) The jury found the defendant not guilty, and he was promptly released.
- (c) Joe is not a fussy eater; he enjoys whatever he is given.

10. **incarceration**

- (a) The fire totally destroyed the building as well as its valuable contents.
- (b) The penalty was five years in prison without parole.
- (c) The prisoners were held in the old mill until they could be transferred.

3E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows it.

Yoshiko Uchida: Second-Class Citizen?

Although their parents had been born in Japan, Yoshiko Uchida and her older sister, Keiko, were American citizens from birth. The girls spoke only a **smattering** of Japanese and grew up in Berkeley, California, in the 1930s as typical American teenagers, believing that they possessed the **inalienable** right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness promised to all Americans. But when Japan launched its **infamous** attack on the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, they discovered that they were mistaken.

Of course, the Uchida sisters deserved no blame for the actions of Japan's military leaders, but they suffered from the anti-Japanese feeling that was suddenly **rampant** among the populace. Japanese Americans were **maligned** as potential traitors and suspected of conspiring to commit acts of **espionage** for a country with which the United States was now at war.

Within hours of the attack, United States government agents searched the Uchida home and took Yoshiko's father away without disclosing what he was accused of or where he was being taken. He was one of many Japanese Americans placed in similar circumstances who had broken no law and were never charged with any offense. This was merely the first of the many **indignities** suffered by Yoshiko's family. The right to travel freely was severely **curtailed** for all Japanese Americans on the West Coast. They were forced to observe an eight o'clock curfew and were forbidden to go more than five miles from their homes. They were also ordered to turn in all cameras, binoculars, short-wave radios, and firearms.

On May 1, 1942, by order of President Roosevelt, 120,000 people of Japanese descent living on the West Coast, two-thirds of them American citizens, were **indiscriminately** rounded up and were allowed to take only what they could carry. The Uchida family was among those forced to leave. Yoshiko's studies—she had been close to getting a degree in education at the University of California, Berkeley—were abruptly terminated. She had no idea when, if ever, she would be allowed to resume her education.

curtail
discriminate
espionage
inalienable
incarcerate
indignity
indiscriminate
infamous
intercede
malign
perpetrate
rampant
rancor
reparation
smattering

The Uchidas were taken to a nearby makeshift prison camp, where Mr. Uchida was permitted to rejoin his family. After being held there for four months, the family was moved to a prison camp near Delta, Utah, on the edge of the Sevier Desert. The camp, called Topaz, was surrounded by barbed wire, with watchtowers at each corner. It was one of ten such camps throughout the United States, hastily set up to detain Japanese Americans.

Thanks to friends on the outside who **interceded** on their behalf, and because the hysteria against Japanese Americans had abated somewhat, the **incarceration** of Yoshiko and Keiko Uchida at Topaz lasted less than a year. Yoshiko was given leave to attend school at Smith College in Massachusetts, and Keiko was given a position at the Department of Education's nursery school at nearby Mount Holyoke College. Later, as investigation into their backgrounds showed them to be blameless, their parents were allowed to leave Topaz and were soon reunited with their daughters.

Yoshiko's father never permitted himself to feel **rancor** against his adopted country for the wrong it had **perpetrated** against Japanese Americans. He believed that one day the government would admit it had made a terrible mistake. That day finally came in 1988, when Congress voted to pay **reparations** to the surviving members of the uprooted families.

For Yoshiko, the experience of being treated like a second-class citizen was not easily forgotten, but she used the experience positively. Yoshiko became a prolific writer; many of the books and short stories she wrote help to educate others about the unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. These stories not only convey the alienation and rejection felt by all victims of **discrimination**; they also serve as necessary reminders of the terrible consequences that result from denying someone or a whole group of people the fundamental rights meant to be enjoyed by all Americans.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. Why would the Uchida sisters have had difficulty communicating in Japanese?

2. When did Japan begin its **infamous** attack on Pearl Harbor?

3. What public sentiments followed this attack?

4. What were some of the freedoms that were **curtailed** for Japanese Americans?

5. Why were radios, cameras, and guns taken from people of Japanese descent?

6. What information in the passage suggests that the United States government did not **discriminate** between Japanese Americans who were loyal to the United States and those who might have been loyal to Japan?
7. What was the first of the **indignities** suffered by the Uchida family during this time?
8. What brought Yoshiko's and Keiko's period of imprisonment to an end?
9. What information in the passage suggests that Mr. Uchida was not embittered by the unjust treatment he endured during the war with Japan?
10. How did the United States government acknowledge that its treatment of Japanese Americans during the war was a mistake?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

To **curtail** something is to cut it short. A *tailor* is a person who cuts cloth and sews it into garments. What do the words *curtail* and *tailor* have in common? Both were derived from the Middle English word *tailen*, meaning “to cut.” Middle English was the language spoken in England between about 1100 and 1500.

The Latin word *malus* means “bad” or “evil” and is related to the root of many English words. *Malice*

is a feeling of ill will toward another; a *malady* is a sickness or disease; a *malefactor* is a criminal or wrongdoer; a *malignant* tumor is one that could cause death; a doctor guilty of *malpractice* has done harm to a patient. And, of course, to **malign** someone is to say bad things about that person.