

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

**alacrity**

ə lak' rə té

*n.* 1. Promptness in responding.

The seller of the classic car accepted my first offer with such **alacrity** that I wished I had offered less.

2. Eagerness.

At the beginning of recess, the children ran to the playground with **alacrity**.

**array**

ə rā'

*n.* 1. A large group of people or things.

The ship's cabin contained an **array** of charts and maps.

2. An orderly arrangement or display.

The **array** of delectable sweets on the dessert tray tempted the diners.

*v.* 1. To place in order.

The marching band was **arrayed** at the entrance to the stadium for the Thanksgiving game.

2. To dress up.

The guests had **arrayed** themselves in elaborate attire for the Viennese ball.

**deduce**

də dōōs'

*v.* To draw a conclusion from given facts.

Your carrying an umbrella leads me to **deduce** that you expect it to rain.

**encumber**

en kum' bər

*v.* 1. To weigh down or burden.

I stumbled through the terminal door, **encumbered** by my two heavy suitcases.

2. To impede the action of.

Ice floes—large sheets of floating ice—**encumbered** the ships of early explorers in Antarctica.

**encumbrance** *n.*

Credit card debt was an **encumbrance** to the young couple as they struggled to save money for their first house.

**fraught**

frōt

*adj.* Full of or accompanied by (usually followed by *with*).

We abandoned our idea of traveling up the Amazon River when we learned that such a trip would be **fraught** with danger.

**haphazard**

hap haz' ərd

*adj.* Marked by lack of plan, order, or direction.

He described in humorous detail his **haphazard** travels around Europe.

**incontrovertible**

in kən tra vĕrt' ə bəl

*adj.* Impossible to dispute; unquestionable.

His statement that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are increasing is **incontrovertible**.

**inexplicable** *adj.* Hard to explain or impossible to understand  
in eks pli' ka bel The disappearance of many ships and planes within the Atlantic Ocean's Bermuda Triangle is **inexplicable** to me.

**ingenious** *adj.* Marked by imagination, resourcefulness, or cleverness.  
in jèn yəs Disposing of garbage by converting it into energy is an **ingenious** idea.

**ingenuity** *n.* (in ja nōō' a tē)  
When she brought in her science project, the child's **ingenuity** was immediately apparent to her teachers.

**laggard** *n.* One who falls behind others because of moving slowly or loitering; a straggler.  
lag' ard The **laggards** crossed the finish line long after the winner had broken the tape.

*adj.* We have been **laggard** in getting the roof repaired.

**sustenance** *n.* Something that provides nourishment; food needed to live.  
sus' tə nəns Roots and berries provided **sustenance** for the sailors when the storm forced them to abandon ship and take refuge on the island.

**torrid** *adj.* 1. Intensely hot and dry.  
tòr' id It was impossible to walk barefoot on the **torrid** desert sand.  
2. Burning with passion.  
The old letter was filled with **torrid** declarations of undying love.

**traverse** *v.* To pass over, across, or through.  
trə vɜrs' Route 66, which **traverses** the United States from Chicago to Los Angeles, is sometimes called "The Mother Road" because in 1932 it opened the West to the automobile.

**ubiquitous** *adj.* Appearing to be present in large numbers or in many different places.  
yōō bik' wə təs Tourists with cameras are **ubiquitous** in Europe every summer.

**zenith** *n.* 1. The highest point; the peak.  
ze' nith Winning the Nobel prize for literature is, for some writers, the **zenith** of their career.  
2. The point in the sky directly above the observer.  
Through the telescope, we spotted a comet that appeared to be midway between the horizon and the **zenith**.