Word Meanings

For each highlighted word on pages 2–3, the meaning is given below. For practice with other meanings, see pages 7–9. For synonyms and antonyms, see page 32.

1. goals
   (gohlz)
   (n.) Your goals are the ends toward which you direct your efforts—the things you want to achieve.

2. suspend
   (suh-SPEND)
   (v.) When you suspend activities, you stop them temporarily.
   (v.) If you forbid someone from taking part in an activity or privilege, you suspend him or her, such as when you suspend a student from school.

3. meteor
   (MEE-tee-ur)
   (n.) A meteor is rock or metal in space that forms a streak of light when it enters Earth’s atmosphere.

4. asteroid
   (ASS-tuh-roid)
   (n.) An asteroid is a rocky or metallic planetary body that circles the Sun. Too small to be a planet, an asteroid is usually less than 3/5 of a mile wide but can measure many miles across.

5. treacherous
   (TRE-chu-ruhss)
   (adj.) A situation that is treacherous is filled with potential dangers and hazards.

6. galaxy
   (GA-luhk-see)
   (n.) A galaxy is one of countless very large groups of stars and planets found in the universe.

7. establish
   (ess-TAB-lish)
   (v.) A person can establish an idea, concept, or theory by proving it.

8. demonstrate
   (DE-muhn-strayt)
   (v.) When you demonstrate something, such as your knowledge or ability, you show it clearly.

9. resolve
   (ri-ZOLV)
   (v.) People who resolve to do something make a firm decision to do it and to be successful in their effort.
   (v.) When you resolve a problem or a dispute, you deal with it successfully to clear things up and find an answer.

10. retreat
    (ri-TREEET)
    (v.) To retreat means to back off from your position or to withdraw from a challenge or a difficult situation.
    (n.) A retreat is a place you go for privacy, safety, or quiet.
Each lesson word has been placed in a category. With a partner, discuss and list items that belong in each category. Compare your results with those of another pair of students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objects or Events That Might Make You Retreat</th>
<th>Things You Might Resolve to Do</th>
<th>Activities or Events That Might Be Suspended Due to Bad Weather</th>
<th>Objects That Look or Move Like Meteors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planets in Our Galaxy</td>
<td>Things You Can Demonstrate</td>
<td>Ways to Establish That You Are Correct</td>
<td>Objects That Move Through the Sky Like Asteroids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check for Understanding

Choose the lesson word that completes each sentence. Write the word on the line provided. Some words will be used twice.

asteroid  galaxy  retreat
demonstrate  goals  suspend
establish  meteor  treacherous
resolve

1. A sudden change in the weather can make hiking up a hill _________________.

2. When I saw the mean-looking dog ahead on the sidewalk, I decided to ________________ to my yard.

3. Earth is one of the planets in the ________________ called the Milky Way.

4. "Shooting star" is another name for a/an ________________ because of the streak of light it creates as it approaches Earth.

5. Many scientists now think that dinosaurs became extinct when a large ________________ collided with Earth.

6. You should set attainable ________________ for yourself so you won’t be discouraged.

7. The school will ________________ play rehearsal if it continues to snow.

8. Students must ________________ their ability before they use the equipment.

9. We ________________ to do our best to win the tournament, so we practice daily.

10. Caitlyn wants to ________________ her reputation as a serious student, so she turns in all her assignments on time.

11. Driving can be ________________ if the roads are slippery.

12. Science fiction often involves strange characters from a distant ________________.
Expand Word Meanings

Read the paragraph below to learn other meanings for some of the lesson words.

My friend Zack loves science fiction. He has fixed up his bedroom—his special retreat—to look like the captain’s quarters on a spaceship. He writes his own sci-fi stories. In one of them, Earthlings and beings from another galaxy resolve disputes by playing a game. The game they invent is space football and it’s played on the surface of the moon. Both teams hover in their spaceships over the playing field in one of the moon’s craters, and they maneuver robotics to aim the ball toward each other’s goals. The leaders of each team suspend any players who don’t follow the game’s rules.

Apply Other Meanings

Complete each sentence with a highlighted word from the paragraph above.

1. The celebrity hid out at a secret ____________ in order to escape the reporters and photographers.

2. The washing machine repair technician made several attempts to ____________ the problem before she found something that worked.

3. The ____________ used in soccer are similar to those used in hockey.

4. The tiny shade garden in the backyard is everyone’s favorite ____________ on hot days.

5. It’s important to learn to ____________ your differences without arguing.

6. The university had to ____________ the basketball team’s coach when he videotaped another team’s strategy sessions.

7. In most sports with a court or field, the ____________ are positioned at opposite ends.

8. When our dog needs a ____________, he avoids the activity in our family room and lies down in his crate.

9. Sometimes it takes great determination to ____________ a difficult problem.

10. The company decided to ____________ an employee whom they suspected of stealing until they could determine if the accusation was true.
Word Associations

Use what you know about the lesson word in italics to answer each question. Circle the letter next to the phrase that best answers the question. Be prepared to explain your answers.

1. Which situation would be most *treacherous*?
   a. walking in the rain
   b. running a marathon
   c. driving in a storm

2. Which of these does an *asteroid* resemble?
   a. rocks and dirt
   b. clouds and sunlight
   c. rockets and planets

3. When would be the best time of day to see a *meteor*?
   a. nighttime
   b. sunrise
   c. afternoon

4. What might make you *retreat* from an argument?
   a. taking a strong position
   b. realizing that you are wrong
   c. emphasizing your point

5. Who would have the authority to *suspend* a baseball player?
   a. another player
   b. the fans
   c. the coach

6. Which of these things might someone *resolve* to do?
   a. fail a test
   b. read a book every week
   c. fight with a friend

7. Which of these things would *establish* someone’s knowledge of Spanish?
   a. translating a letter
   b. ordering Mexican food
   c. listening to Spanish music

8. Which of these is NOT true about every *galaxy*?
   a. They all have stars.
   b. They all have the same shape.
   c. They all have planets.

9. How would you *demonstrate* your math skills?
   a. by signing up for a math class
   b. by taking notes
   c. by adding fractions together

10. What is the most challenging aspect of having *goals*?
    a. reaching them
    b. forgetting them
    c. sharing them with friends
**Check Again**

Use what you know about the lesson word in italics to complete each sentence. Be sure your sentences make sense.

1. If you set reasonable *goals*, __________________________________________

2. Crossing the street can be *treacherous* when __________________________________________

3. When a *meteor* streaks through the sky, it __________________________________________

4. These footprints in the mud *establish* that __________________________________________

5. A school might *suspend* registration for a class if __________________________________________

6. I decided to *retreat* from the conversation when __________________________________________

7. The idea of an *asteroid* colliding with Earth is frightening because __________________________________________

8. People can *demonstrate* their concern for the environment by __________________________________________

9. When I think about our *galaxy*, I picture __________________________________________

10. A person who frequently arrives late to school might *resolve* to __________________________________________

---

**Challenge Yourself**

Follow the directions to write sentences with the lesson words in italics. Be sure your sentences make sense both grammatically and in meaning.

1. Write a sentence using the word *meteor*.

2. Write a sentence using the word *demonstrate* in the third position.

3. Write a ten-word sentence using the word *asteroid* in the sixth position.
Word-Solving Strategies: Context Clues

Punctuation

Punctuation can signal a clue to the meaning of an unknown word. Reread this sentence from “Why Explore Space?”

We all should know that a meteor and a shooting star are the same thing—a small rock that falls from space and burns as it enters our atmosphere.

The dash signals that a definition for meteor and shooting star will follow. Commas, quotation marks, italics, and parentheses also can be used as signals.

Practice

A. Write a highlighted word and the punctuation that helps define it in the first two boxes. Then write the meaning of the word in the third box.

For a very short time—only 76 years—Pluto was a planet. Pluto has an eccentric (not circular) orbit. Sometimes, it is proximate, or close, to the Sun, and sometimes, it’s far away. Pluto wasn’t discovered until 1930, and because it’s quite small, many questioned its status as a major planet. In 2006, experts redefined what makes a planet a planet, and poor Pluto was demoted—relegated to the new category of “dwarf planet.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>PUNCTUATION</th>
<th>WORD MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Write four sentences using each of the highlighted words from the paragraph above. Use punctuation that signals a definition of the word.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Sometimes, commas, parentheses, and dashes indicate additional information:

An asteroid, unlike a meteor, rarely encounters Earth.

Here, the words set off by commas compare an asteroid and a meteor, but they do not tell you what an asteroid is.
Practice for Tests

Fill in the bubble next to the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. Read this sentence.
   The heavy snowfall forced the city to suspend regular bus service.
   
   Suspend means:
   ○ A reroute
   ○ B discontinue
   ○ C interrupt
   ○ D increase

2. You establish yourself as an authority on a topic when you:
   ○ A pretend to know about it
   ○ B learn a few important terms
   ○ C talk about it a lot
   ○ D show you know it well

3. The opposite of retreat is:
   ○ A quietly argue
   ○ B go slowly
   ○ C move forward
   ○ D stop pretending

4. Goals are things to:
   ○ A work toward
   ○ B keep nearby
   ○ C plan with
   ○ D avoid

5. Which could a person resolve?
   ○ A an answer
   ○ B a movie
   ○ C an argument
   ○ D school

6. Read this sentence.
   Sometimes you can see the Andromeda Galaxy without a telescope.
   
   Galaxy means:
   ○ A outer space
   ○ B planet
   ○ C solar system
   ○ D group of stars

7. A meteor is visible because it:
   ○ A reflects moonlight
   ○ B creates a trail of light
   ○ C comes from the Sun
   ○ D breaks off from a star

8. The path would be treacherous if it were:
   ○ A covered with ice
   ○ B through a meadow
   ○ C paved with stones
   ○ D bordered with hedges

9. An asteroid resembles a:
   ○ A star
   ○ B cloud
   ○ C rock
   ○ D sponge

10. You can demonstrate good manners by:
    ○ A talking too loud
    ○ B saying “please” and “thank you”
    ○ C cutting in line
    ○ D asking friends for advice