

4000

Essential

English

Words

3

Paul Nation

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Introduction

About the Vocabulary

The 600 words in each book of this series along with the additional target words presented in the appendices included in the first three books of the series are the most useful words in English. They were found by analysis of a collection of English course books from various levels in the primary, secondary and tertiary school systems. The words included in this series were chosen because they occurred many times in different levels of these materials. Because of the way that they were chosen, these words have the following characteristics:

- 1 They are useful in both spoken and written English. No matter what English course you are studying, the words in these books will be of value to you.
- 2 Each word in these books is a high-frequency word. This means that the effort in learning the words is well repaid by the number of times learners have a chance to encounter or use them.
- 3 These books as a whole cover a large proportion of the words in any spoken or written text. They cover at least 80% of the words in newspapers and academic texts, and at least 90% of the words in novels. They also cover at least 90% of the words in conversation.

About the Books

The activities in these books are specially designed to make use of important learning conditions. Firstly, the words are introduced using sentence definitions and an example sentence. The activities that follow in the units encourage learners to recall the meanings and forms of the words. Some activities also make the learners think about the meaning of the words in the context of a sentence—a sentence different from the sentences that occurred in the introduction of the words. Moreover, each unit ends with a story containing the target words. While reading the story, the learners have to recall the meanings of the words and suit them to the context of the story. Such activities help learners develop a better understanding of a common meaning for a given word which fits the different uses.

Illustrations for each target word are provided to help learners visualize the word as it is being used in the example sentence. These word/image associations aim to help students grasp the meaning of the word as well as recall the word later.

It should be noted that words have more than one grammatical category. However, this series focuses on the word's most common form. This is mentioned to remind learners that just because a word is labeled and utilized as a noun in this series does not mean that it can never be used in another form such as an adjective. This series has simply focused on the word in the form that it is most likely to be expressed.

Supporting Learning with Outside Activities

A well-balanced language course provides four major opportunities for learning: learning through input, learning through output, deliberate learning, and fluency development. The highly structured activities in these books support all four types of learning opportunities. In addition, learning can further be supported through the following activities:

- 1 Have students create vocabulary cards with one word from the unit on one side of the card and the translation of the word in the student's first language on the other side. Students should use the cards for study in free moments during the day. Over several weeks, students will find that quick repeated studying for brief periods of time is more effective than studying for hours at one sitting.
- 2 Assign graded readers at students' appropriate levels. Reading such books provides both enjoyment as well as meaning-focused input which will help the words stick in students' memory.
- 3 Practice reading fluency to promote faster recall of word meaning for both sight recognition and usage. Compass Publishing's *Reading for Speed and Fluency* is a good resource for reading fluency material.
- 4 Include listening, speaking, and writing activities in classes. Reinforcement of the high-frequency vocabulary presented in this series is important across all the four language skills.

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Word List



arise [ə'raɪz] v.

To **arise** is to happen.

→ Difficulties **arose** with his computer because it was old.



benefactor [bə'nɛfəktər] n.

A **benefactor** is a person who gives money to help someone.

→ The student's **benefactor** gave him money to spend on his studies.



blacksmith [blæksmiθ] n.

A **blacksmith** is a person who makes things out of metal.

→ The **blacksmith** pounded the piece of metal until it was flat.



charitable [tʃærətəbəl] adj.

When someone is **charitable**, they help people who are in need.

→ My sister was **charitable** enough to help me buy my first house.



chimney [tʃɪmni] n.

A **chimney** is a tall pipe used to carry smoke out of a building.

→ The cat was on the roof sitting next to the **chimney**.



compensate [kəmpənsəɪt] v.

To **compensate** is to pay someone for the time they spent doing something.

→ Her boss **compensated** her for the extra work she did last week.



encounter [ɪnkaʊntər] v.

If you **encounter** something, you meet or come close to it.

→ I **encountered** a sea turtle while I was swimming.



exceed [ɪk'si:d] v.

To **exceed** is to be more than something.

→ Since I **exceeded** my limit, I decided to get rid of my credit cards.



forge [fɔ:rdʒ] v.

To **forge** is to make or produce, especially with difficulty.

→ Stacy and Heather **forged** their friendship when they were teenagers.



humble [hʌmbəl] adj.

People who are **humble** do not believe that they are better than other people.

→ Even though Bob is the smartest boy in his class, he is **humble**.



iron [áíərn] *n.*

Iron is a strong metal that is used to make many objects.

→ The horse had shoes made of **iron**.



ladder [lædə:r] *n.*

A ladder is an object that is used to climb up and down things.

→ He used a **ladder** to climb to the top of his tree house.



modest [módíst] *adj.*

If people are **modest**, they do not think that they are too important.

→ Derek is very **modest** for someone who is so rich.



occupy [ákjəpài] *v.*

To **occupy** a place is to live, work, or be there.

→ Kevin and Alice **occupied** the chairs and had a long discussion.



penny [péni] *n.*

A **penny** is a coin worth one cent.

→ U.S. President Abraham Lincoln is on the **penny**.



preach [pri:tʃ] *v.*

To **preach** is to talk about and promote a religious idea.

→ Aaron often **preached** about living an honest life.



prosper [práspər] *v.*

To **prosper** is to be successful or make a lot of money.

→ Frank's new business finally **prospered** after many years of hard work.



province [právinz] *n.*

A **province** is a small area that is controlled by a country.

→ Canada is divided into several different **provinces**.



satisfaction [sætísfækʃən] *n.*

Satisfaction is a feeling you get when you do or receive something good.

→ Brad was filled with **satisfaction** when he saw what was for dinner.



sustain [səstéin] *v.*

To **sustain** something is to keep it going.

→ Wind power is a clean way to **sustain** a city with energy.

Exercise 1

PART A Choose the right word for the given definition.

1. to make or produce with difficulty
a. prosper b. arise c. penny d. forge
2. a person who works with metal
a. iron b. blacksmith c. charitable d. benefactor
3. to keep something going
a. exceed b. sustain c. preach d. occupy
4. a small area that is part of a country
a. ladder b. province c. encounter d. compensate
5. thinking oneself not to be too important
a. humble b. satisfaction c. chimney d. modest

PART B Choose the right definition for the given word.

1. benefactor
a. giver b. an area
c. money d. too much
2. compensate
a. where smoke goes b. to shape metal
c. a tool used to climb d. to pay someone in return
3. occupy
a. to be rich b. to happen
c. to see someone you know d. to be in a place
4. iron
a. a baby b. a type of metal
c. a good feeling d. a person who makes things with metal
5. exceed
a. to keep something going b. to not talk about yourself too much
c. to be kind to others d. to go past a certain limit

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

1. Which of the following is a form of money?
a. A province
b. A penny
c. A blacksmith
d. A ladder
2. If you meet a boy on the street, you _____ him.
a. exceed
b. occupy
c. encounter
d. sustain
3. Which of the following is a good feeling?
a. Modest
b. Humble
c. Satisfaction
d. Charitable
4. Which one is part of a house?
a. Forge
b. Compensate
c. Arise
d. Chimney
5. Which word relates to the word *religion*?
a. Iron
b. Preach
c. Benefactor
d. Prosper
6. Which of the following means to happen?
a. Sustain
b. Arise
c. Province
d. Prosper
7. Which of the following do people use to reach high places?
a. A chimney
b. A blacksmith
c. A benefactor
d. A ladder
8. If you are smart with your money, then what will happen to you?
a. You will occupy a jail cell
b. You will forge a strong relationship
c. You will prosper
d. You will become humble
9. If someone gives money to others, we could say that they are _____.
a. charitable
b. modest
c. prosper
d. exceed
10. Which of the following describes someone who thinks they are no better than others?
a. Benefactor
b. Satisfaction
c. Humble
d. Compensate