

it.226 Communication in STEM Professions

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"Good writing is good thinking" Professor John V. Lesko (retired), Harvard University & Bentley College

Each test word is printed in CAPITAL letters in a phrase. From the five choices on the next line, select the one which comes nearest in meaning to the meaning of the test word. Underline the one you select.

1. She ESTABLISHED the business.
announced bought sold improved set up
2. Enjoying the EXPEDITION.
visit display journey boat race sights
3. Best way to INSTRUCT.
forget teach learn punish build
4. GNARLED branches.
old decorated smooth diseased twisted
5. Tried to FLATTER him.
insult improve over praise crush agree with
6. They were EXTERMINATED.
wiped out stopped beaten up cured thrown away
7. Began to LAG.
sink give up breathe heavily fall behind catch up
8. FATAL blows.
deadly soft natural first painful
9. Powerful HEX.
evil prayer tool fear curse
10. Clever IMPOSTOR.
detective customer magician faker thief
11. GLUM people.
mean cheerful gloomy stupid clumsy
12. They were FEROCIOUS.
huge fierce loud clever mild
13. Examined the INTERIOR.
tomb decoration inside room outside
14. It was worth the EXPENSE.
price income protection time effort
15. Everyone was GLEEFUL.
worried dangerous excited merry warm

Vocabulary Scale 5780

ESTABLISH (e-stab'-lish) v.: to set up, make firm, start up, bring about, found

ESTABLISH is related to the adjective *stable*, which means *solid, fixed, not easily moved*. The basic meaning of ESTABLISH is "to make something stable." The word is usually used in the sense "to set up or bring about something," usually on a firm or stable basis. It is often used about businesses:

"This company was ESTABLISHED in 1959."

About customs:

"Who ESTABLISHED the custom of kissing underneath mistletoe?"

About rights, claims, facts, and the like:

"It took a long time to ESTABLISH the facts of the case."

And about people:

"They were comfortably ESTABLISHED in their new headquarters."

In all cases, ESTABLISH has the idea of setting something up, putting something on a firm foundation.

Other forms of the word: ESTABLISHMENT, n.

EXPEDITION (ek-spə-dish'-ən) n.: a journey, voyage

An EXPEDITION is a journey or voyage which usually is made for a definite reason. It is usually well organized, and its purpose is often to explore.

"He went on an EXPEDITION into the jungle to study the rare plants that grow there."

"When we had everything packed for our vacation, it looked like we were going on an EXPEDITION to Alaska."

"The military EXPEDITION lasted two months."

INSTRUCT (in-struhkt') v.: to teach, educate, inform; to order

To INSTRUCT someone is to give knowledge to him. Often it means just about the same as *teach*.

"The teacher INSTRUCTED the class about how to do multiplication."

"The piano teacher comes to the house to INSTRUCT Sue."

Sometimes INSTRUCT has a stronger meaning—to *order* or *direct*.

"The teacher INSTRUCTED us to return to our seats immediately."

The adjective from INSTRUCT is INSTRUCTIVE, which means "giving knowledge," *informative*.

"The class was very INSTRUCTIVE. I think we all learned a lot."

Other forms of the word: INSTRUCTION, n.
INSTRUCTIVE, adj.
INSTRUCTOR, n.

GNARLED (nahrlɪd) adj.: twisted, rugged, knotty

GNARLED is used about the rough, twisted, knotty appearance of the branches on oak and other trees.

"The kite was caught in the GNARLED branches of the tree."

From this use the word has come to be applied to anything or anyone that looks rugged, tough, or weatherbeaten.

"His hands were GNARLED from years of hard work."

"The GNARLED old cowboy told us many exciting tales of his younger days."

Other forms of the word: GNARL, v.

FLATTER (flat'-ər) v.: to over praise; to show favorably

To FLATTER someone is to praise him more than he deserves, usually with the hope of gaining something.

"The noblemen FLATTERED the king by telling him what a great leader he was."

"Ted tried to FLATTER her, but she realized he wasn't sincere with his compliments."

In a related sense, FLATTER means "to show off to advantage."

"That photograph FLATTERS her. She's not really that good-looking."

Other forms of the word: FLATTERY, n.

EXTERMINATE (ek-ster'-mā-nAt) v.: to destroy completely, wipe out, put an end to, get rid of

To **EXTERMINATE** something is to wipe it out, to destroy it totally. The word is used about people, ideas, insects, diseases, and other things.

"The enemy tried to **EXTERMINATE** us, but somehow a few of us managed to survive."

"Our attempt to **EXTERMINATE** this new disease was completely successful; no cases of it were reported last year."

An **EXTERMINATOR** is someone who **EXTERMINATES**, particularly someone whose job is to **EXTERMINATE** insects, rats, or other pests.

"The new house was so filled with bugs, we had to call the **EXTERMINATOR**."

In the Pretest, *stop* is often chosen as the meaning of **EXTERMINATE**. **EXTERMINATE** is a much stronger word than *stop*, however. To **EXTERMINATE** means to *destroy completely*.

Other forms of the word: **EXTERMINATION**, n.
EXTERMINATOR, n.

LAG (lag) v.: to fall behind, fail to keep up

To **LAG** is to go too slow, to fail to keep up the pace.

"All the runners kept on going, but Jim was tired and **LAGGED** behind."

"The two of us **LAGGED** behind the others so that we could talk some more."

Sometimes **LAG** is used to mean "to weaken little by little, to become less active."

"After a while his interest in history began to **LAG**."

Usage: **LAG** is often followed by *behind*.

FATAL (fAt'-l) adj.: deadly, mortal, disastrous

FATE is the influence or power that is supposed to control our lives. **FATAL** is an adjective from **FATE**. See *-al* under Suffixes. The basic meaning of **FATAL** is "determining one's **FATE**." The word is generally used about death, which is everyone's **FATE**. A **FATAL** accident is one that causes death; a **FATAL** dose of a drug is one large enough to bring about death. Sometimes the word is used about things that are so bad or disastrous that they seem deadly.

"This one **FATAL** mistake caused many problems for her later on."

A **FATALITY** is a death, usually one caused by an accident or a disaster.

"The police reported seven **FATALITIES** on the icy highway that night."

Other forms of the word: **FATE**, n.
FATALITY, n.

HEX (heks) n.: a curse, evil spell, jinx

A **HEX** is an evil spell, a curse that a witch might put on someone.

"When the machine kept breaking down, it began to look as though someone had put a **HEX** on it."

"There must be a **HEX** on those people; everything they do turns out wrong."

HEX can also be used as a verb.

"Dave thought that if anyone even mentioned losing it might somehow **HEX** the team."

IMPOSTOR (im-pos'-tər) n.: a pretender, faker, fraud

An **IMPOSTOR** is a person who pretends to be someone he is not.

"The man said he was from the F.B.I., but he turned out to be an **IMPOSTOR**."

"The doctor knew so little about medicine that we accused him of being an **IMPOSTOR**."

"It would be impossible for an **IMPOSTOR** to fool us."

GLUM (gluhm) adj.: gloomy, sad, dejected

GLUM is related to the word *gloom*. Someone who is **GLUM** is in low spirits; he is in a silent, unhappy mood.

"The student looked very **GLUM** as he waited in the principal's office."

"The **GLUM** athletes sat silently in the locker room after losing the game."

"Our mailman always looks **GLUM**. I don't think he likes his job."

FEROCIOUS (fə-rō'-shəs) adj.: fierce, savage, cruel, violently aggressive

FEROCIOUS is used about animals and people and the way they act. It means "extremely cruel, wild, and savage."

"The dog was small but **FEROCIOUS**: it would attack dogs three times its size."

"The **FEROCIOUS** battle lasted all day, with neither side giving an inch."

The noun from **FEROCIOUS** is **FEROCITY**.

"The **FEROCITY** of his criticism surprised us; we didn't think he had disliked it that much."

"His **FEROCITY** when he was angry made everyone afraid of him."

Other forms of the word: **FEROCITY**, n.

INTERIOR (in-tir'-E-ər) n.: the inside

See *in-* under Prefixes. The **INTERIOR** of something is its inside.

"She liked the house from the outside, but thought its **INTERIOR** was very ugly."

"He traveled from the coast to the **INTERIOR** of the country."

An "**INTERIOR** decorator" is a person who decorates the insides of houses and buildings.

The opposite of **INTERIOR** is *exterior*, the *outside*.

Decoration is often chosen as the meaning of **INTERIOR**. People who pick *decoration* have probably heard the phrase *INTERIOR decoration* but don't know exactly what it means.

EXPENSE (ek-spens') n.: price, cost, spending

The **EXPENSE** of something is how much it costs, how much you have to pay for it. This cost is usually calculated in terms of money.

"I want that car, no matter what the **EXPENSE**."

"He worried about the **EXPENSE** of the trip."

EXPENSE can refer to other things besides money.

"He stayed outside in the snowstorm, at great **EXPENSE** to his health"—that is, he paid the price for staying outside by becoming sick.

"We managed to finish the project, but it required a tremendous **EXPENSE** of time and energy."

Something that is **EXPENSIVE** causes **EXPENSE**—costs a lot of money or more than it is worth.

"This car is too **EXPENSIVE**; I have to find one that costs less."

Other forms of the word: **EXPEND**, v.
EXPENSIVE, adj.

GLEEFUL (glē'-fəl) adj.: merry, joyous, glad

GLEE is joy, especially joy caused by triumph or success.

"He shouted with **GLEE** as they called out his name as the winner."

GLEEFUL means "full of **GLEE**."

"He was **GLEEFUL** at the news that he had been accepted at college."

"The **GLEEFUL** child got onto her new bicycle."

Excited is a common choice as the meaning of **GLEEFUL**. A **GLEEFUL** person will usually be *excited*, but **GLEEFUL** has to do with joy and happiness, not with excitement.

Other forms of the word: **GLEE**, n.

Exercise 1

Answer each question with a YES or NO. Put a check in the space for YES or NO next to each question.

	Yes	No
EXAMPLE		
Is a speck of dust TINY?	✓	
1. Do wreckers ESTABLISH buildings?		
2. Can there be only one person on an EXPEDITION?		
3. Does a teacher INSTRUCT a class?		
4. Do babies usually have GNARLED hands?		
5. If you tell someone he is ugly, mean, and stingy, are you FLATTERING him?		
6. Have rats been completely EXTERMINATED?		
7. Would a speedy person usually LAG behind?		
8. Is a cold usually FATAL?		
9. Is a HEX meant to help a person?		
10. Is an IMPOSTOR trying to fool someone?		
11. Does losing often make people feel GLUM?		
12. Can wolves be FEROCIOUS?		
13. Is the skin on the INTERIOR of the body?		
14. If you can get something at no EXPENSE, is it free?		
15. Does the loser of a game generally feel GLEEFUL?		

Exercise 2

Each sentence contains a test word in CAPITAL letters. Decide whether the test word is being used correctly or incorrectly in the sentence. Put a check in the space for RIGHT or WRONG next to the sentence.

	Right	Wrong
EXAMPLE		
After working hard all day Bill felt TINY and wanted to sleep.		✓
1. Beth tried to ESTABLISH a reputation as a hard worker.		
2. The EXPEDITION of jewelry was beautifully arranged in the store window.		
3. We were INSTRUCTED to leave our coats outside the examination room.		
4. The dog GNARLED on the bone for a while before he buried it.		
5. The painting FLATTERED the lady by making her look twenty years younger.		
6. We tried to EXTERMINATE all the insects in the house.		
7. He LAGGED at them for not working harder.		
8. His one error proved to be FATAL, because his team lost as a result of it.		

	Right	Wrong
9. Al believed he was HEXED , because nothing ever seemed to go right for him.	_____	_____
10. He was a true IMPOSTOR , always trying to help people.	_____	_____
11. Catherine became GLUM when she heard that she had won the scholarship.	_____	_____
12. The FEROCIOUS look the teacher gave us made us all quiet down immediately.	_____	_____
13. The INTERIOR of Australia is mostly desert.	_____	_____
14. The watch was so EXPENSIVE we couldn't afford to buy it.	_____	_____
15. With GLEEFUL cries, the children opened their presents on Christmas morning.	_____	_____

Exercise 3

Each test word is followed by three other words. Decide which of the three words is **LEAST CLOSELY RELATED** in its meaning to the meaning of the test word. Put the letter for the word you choose in the space at the end of the line.

EXAMPLE

TINY:	a) small	b) short	c) angry	<u> C </u>
1. ESTABLISH:	a) build	b) start	c) change	_____
2. EXPEDITION:	a) view	b) voyage	c) trip	_____
3. INSTRUCT:	a) teach	b) compare	c) command	_____
4. GNARLED:	a) knotty	b) heavy	c) twisted	_____
5. FLATTER:	a) pretend	b) lie	c) insult	_____
6. EXTERMINATE:	a) kill	b) hurt	c) destroy	_____
7. LAG:	a) follow	b) slow	c) win	_____
8. FATAL:	a) destructive	b) illegal	c) harmful	_____
9. HEX:	a) spell	b) curse	c) threat	_____
10. IMPOSTOR:	a) robber	b) phony	c) faker	_____
11. GLUM:	a) silent	b) tired	c) sad	_____
12. FEROCIOUS:	a) cruel	b) wild	c) unhealthy	_____
13. INTERIOR:	a) top	b) inside	c) center	_____
14. EXPENSE:	a) charge	b) cost	c) quantity	_____
15. GLEEFUL:	a) happy	b) pleased	c) healthy	_____

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