

# Lesson 16

For more practice and games, go to [www.WordlyWise3000.com](http://www.WordlyWise3000.com).



Book 4

## Word List

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

**apt**  
apt

*adj.* 1. Well-suited; fitting; appropriate.  
"The Stilt" was an **apt** nickname for seven-foot-one-inch basketball star Wilt Chamberlain.  
2. Likely or almost certain.  
I am **apt** to do better on Spanish tests if I make vocabulary cards to study.

**blossom**  
blä' sëm

*n.* A flower.  
The white orange **blossom** stands out against the dark-green foliage.  
*v.* 1. To come into bloom.  
Dogwood trees **blossom** in May.  
2. To develop.  
After two years of playing bit parts, she **blossomed** into a star of the Broadway stage.

**bough**  
bou

*n.* A large branch or limb of a tree.  
The **boughs** of the apple tree were heavy with fruit.

**content**  
kən tent'

*adj.* Happy with what one has; satisfied.  
Give me a good book and a comfortable armchair and I am **content**.  
**contentment** *n.* A state of being satisfied and at peace.  
After a delicious dinner and a hot bath, I relaxed in total **contentment**.

**detest**  
di test'

*v.* To dislike strongly; to hate.  
Many Germans **detested** Hitler, but were afraid to speak out.  
**detestable** *adj.* Causing or deserving strong dislike.  
His racist views are **detestable**.

**dusk**  
dusk

*n.* The time at the end of the day just before dark.  
The streetlights go on at **dusk**.

**extinguish**  
ek stin' gwish

*v.* To put out, as a fire or a light.  
The sign at the campsite said, "Before leaving, make sure you **extinguish** your campfire."



**familiar**  
fa mil' yər

*adj.* 1. Often seen or experienced; known.  
I was happy to see a **familiar** face in the crowd.  
2. Having a good knowledge of.  
Dan read about it in the newspaper and is **familiar** with the case.

**obtain**  
əb tain'

*v.* To gain or get by making an effort.  
We were lucky to **obtain** tickets for the jazz concert because they sold out very quickly.

**orchard**  
ôr' chərd

*n.* A place where fruit trees grow.  
Every fall my brother and I go to an **orchard** where you can pick your own apples.

**practice**  
prak' tis

*v.* 1. To say or do over and over in order to get better at something.  
If you **practice** Spanish every day, you should be able to get along when you go to Mexico.  
2. To do; carry on, perform.  
He was raised from an early age to **practice** politeness.  
3. To work at as a profession.  
Aunt Marianna is licensed to **practice** law in both California and Nevada.  
*n.* 1. A repeated action or usual way of doing something.  
It's my mother's **practice** to swim thirty laps every morning.  
2. The work of a profession.  
The **practice** of medicine has recently undergone many changes.

**prune**  
prōn

*v.* To cut off branches.  
We had to **prune** the shrubs so we could see out of the window.  
*n.* A dried plum.  
Elijah usually soaks the **prunes** overnight and serves them for breakfast.

**stout**  
stout

*adj.* 1. Heavily built; thickset.  
He used to be thin, but he grew **stout** as he got older.  
2. Strong; not easily bent or broken.  
The roof of the barn was supported by six **stout** posts.

**threadbare**  
thred' ber

*adj.* Shabby and worn-out.  
The **threadbare** blankets on the bed failed to keep us warm during the night.



**wander**  
wän' dər

- v. 1. To go from place to place with no plan or purpose in mind.  
We **wandered** around downtown, waiting for the post office to open.
2. To slip easily off the subject; to fail to work in a normal way.  
Luis tried to concentrate on his math homework, but his mind began to **wander**.

**16A**

### Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 16. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A blossom is (c) the work of a profession.  
(b) A practice is (d) something that is done right the first time.

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2. (a) A familiar person is one who is (c) a close relative.  
(b) A stout person is one who is (d) heavily built.

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3. (a) To extinguish a light is to (c) put it out.  
(b) To obtain a light is to (d) put a shade over it.

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4. (a) To prune is to (c) gather fruit.  
(b) travel aimlessly. (d) To wander is to

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5. (a) whatever is inside something. (c) Contentment is  
(b) the approach of darkness. (d) Dusk is

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6. (a) An orchard is  
(b) A blossom is
- (c) a flower.  
(d) a piece of fruit.
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7. (a) is found after a search.  
(b) Something that is apt
- (c) Something that is detestable  
(d) deserves hate.
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8. (a) get rid of it.  
(b) keep doing it.
- (c) To practice something is to  
(d) To obtain something is to
- 
- 

9. (a) a type of dried fruit.  
(b) a fruit-bearing tree.
- (c) A bough is  
(d) A prune is
- 
-

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 16.

1. I **strongly dislike** your taste in music.
2. As I crawled along the **branch of the tree**, it began to bend under my weight.
3. If I raise my grade to a B+, I will be **very satisfied**.
4. After an hour of that boring movie, my mind began to **fail to work in a normal way**.
5. My cousin's farm includes a large **piece of land on which fruit trees are growing**.
6. My favorite blue sweater is **getting shabby and worn out**, but I refuse to throw it away.
7. My piano teacher said that if I keep **playing that part over and over again**, I'll have the whole piece memorized.
8. Beginning skiers are **very likely** to fall many times while they are learning.
9. Gina is going to **get hold of** the equipment we need for the camping trip.
10. Your face is **known to me**, but I can't remember your name.
11. When do the rose bushes start to **have flowers growing on them**?

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Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might be **stout**?  
(a) a person (c) a walking stick  
(b) a rope (d) a cobweb
2. Which of the following would grow in an **orchard**?  
(a) pears (c) potatoes  
(b) a chord (d) tomatoes
3. Which of the following happens at **dusk**?  
(a) the stars begin to appear (c) the sun rises  
(b) it gets darker (d) it gets cloudy
4. Which of the following can a person **obtain**?  
(a) a car roof rack (c) a phone number  
(b) a car trip (d) a phone call
5. Which of the following can be **pruned**?  
(a) trees (c) flowers  
(b) leaves (d) branches
6. Which of the following might bring a person **contentment**?  
(a) being with family (c) feeling concerned about one's health  
(b) getting together with friends (d) missing an important date
7. Which of the following are **familiar** sights in the city?  
(a) buses (c) shoppers  
(b) taxicabs (d) police cars
8. Which of the following might **wander**?  
(a) a train (c) a person going for a long walk  
(b) a lost child (d) a person setting off for work



Write the synonym of each word on the left on the line next to it. Choose from the words on the right, which are in a different order.

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|----------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. prompt      | _____ | danger    |
| 2. ban         | _____ | sad       |
| 3. detest      | _____ | quick     |
| 4. plead       | _____ | satisfied |
| 5. threadbare  | _____ | forbid    |
| 6. obstinate   | _____ | get       |
| 7. fortunate   | _____ | modest    |
| 8. obtain      | _____ | hate      |
| 9. menace      | _____ | lucky     |
| 10. content    | _____ | stubborn  |
| 11. humble     | _____ | beg       |
| 12. melancholy | _____ | shabby    |

apt  
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Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

## The Story of Johnny Appleseed



In the late 1700s, most Americans had never tasted an apple. That's because very few apple trees grew outside of New England. A man named John Chapman did more than anyone else to change that. He enjoyed sinking his teeth into a sweet, juicy apple and wanted to share his enjoyment with others. When he traveled, it was his **practice** to take a bag of apple seeds with him. For forty years, Chapman **wandered** through Ohio, Indiana, and western Pennsylvania. As he went along, he planted apple trees.

Chapman **obtained** the seeds from New England cider mills after the apples had been pressed for cider. Over the years, apple **orchards** began growing in many of the places he had visited. From time to time, he returned to them. He would **prune** the trees and make sure they stayed healthy.

This unusual man was born in Leominster, Massachusetts. He began his travels in 1797, when he was in his early twenties. When he needed money, he knew how to get it. Just down the road, someone would give him work and pay him a dollar or two. Chapman spent most days on the road. In his hand was a **stout** walking stick cut from an apple tree. On his head was a tall, black hat. At **dusk**, he looked for a place to spend the night. If there was no house with a room to offer him nearby, he was **content** to sleep under the stars. He had few needs, and it didn't bother him that his clothes were **threadbare**.

John Chapman **detested** killing of any kind. For that reason, he refused to eat meat. Once he even **extinguished** a campfire because mosquitoes were flying into the flames and dying. He had no fear of wild animals either. The animals, in turn, seemed to sense that he would do them no harm. In one of the many stories told about Chapman, he spent the night in the company of a friendly bear.

When he returned to places he had visited, Chapman was greeted as an old friend. He loved to come back in the spring. It was wonderful to see apple trees he had planted years before full of pink and white **blossoms**. But his greatest pleasure was to return in the fall when their **boughs** were weighed down with apples. Over the years he became a **familiar** sight to the people living on the farms and in the small towns of the Ohio River Valley. They gave him the **apt** name we know him by today—Johnny Appleseed.



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

1. Why is Johnny Appleseed an **apt** name for John Chapman?

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2. Why did people have reason to be grateful to Chapman?

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3. How do we know Chapman was not vain about his appearance?

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4. Why did Chapman refuse to eat meat?

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5. How can we tell that John Chapman was not usually in a hurry?

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6. What is the meaning of **practice** as it is used in the passage?

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7. Where did Chapman get his apple seeds?

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8. What did Chapman look for in materials to make a walking stick?

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9. What did Chapman do at the end of the day when he was traveling?

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10. What did Chapman do if there was no one to give him a night's lodging?

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11. Why did Chapman once put out his campfire?

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12. What sight did Chapman enjoy in the spring?

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13. Did the apple trees Chapman planted yield much fruit?

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14. How do you know that Chapman often returned to places he had been to before?

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15. Why did Chapman return to places where he had planted trees?

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### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

• In Lesson 10, you learned that the word *orphan* comes from an old Sanskrit word. Another word that comes from this same language is **apt**. The Sanskrit word *apta* means "suitable" or "fitting." An *apt* remark is one that is a suitable or fitting thing to say.

• As an adjective, **content** means "satisfied." As a noun, it means "the amount contained." Then it is pronounced con'tent. (Don't drink water with high lead *content*.) The plural form, *contents*, means "all that is contained." (The bag spilled its *contents* onto the floor.)