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

**avalanche**

*n.* 1. A great mass of ice, earth, or snow mixed with rocks sliding down a mountain.
The mountain climbers had a narrow escape when the *avalanche* swept over them.

2. A great amount of something.
Our company had an *avalanche* of orders after we used a television ad for our new game.

**blizzard**

*n.* A heavy snowstorm with strong winds.
The Chicago airport had to close for two days because of the *blizzard*.

**challenge**

*v.* 1. To invite others to take part in a contest.
I *challenged* my friend to a game of chess.

2. To cause a person to use a lot of skill or effort.
This trail *challenges* even the best skiers.

3. To question or to argue against, especially when something is unfair or unjust.
Very few scientists *challenge* the idea that a large meteorite killed off the last of the dinosaurs sixty-five million years ago.

*n.* 1. An interesting task or problem; something that takes skill or effort.
Living out of our backpacks for a week on the mountain was a real *challenge*.

2. A call to take part in a contest.
I accepted the *challenge* to run in the marathon.

**conquer**

*v.* 1. To get the better of.
Swimming lessons at the YMCA helped me to *conquer* my fear of the water.

2. To defeat.
Hannibal’s army *conquered* part of Spain in 219 B.C.E.

*conquest*  
*n.* The act of defeating.
The Norman *conquest* of England took place in 1066.

**crevice**

*n.* A deep, narrow opening in rock caused by a split or crack.
The *crevice* had filled with soil in which a cluster of small red flowers was growing.
| **foolhardy**<br>foolˈ hәrdә | adj. Unwisely bold or daring.<br>It would be **foolhardy** to go sailing during a gale. |
| **lure**<br>loor | v. To tempt or attract with the promise of something good.<br>In the early nineteenth century, the hope of owning land of their own **lured** many people to travel west to Ohio and Indiana.<br><br>n. 1. Something that attracts.<br>The **lure** of the sea led us to take up sailing.<br><br>2. Artificial bait used for fishing.<br>A large striped bass took the **lure**, and I hooked it. |
| **makeshift**<br>mәkˈ shift | n. A temporary and usually less strong replacement.<br>They used the trailer as a **makeshift** while their house was being rebuilt.<br><br>adj. Used as a temporary replacement.<br>We use the sofa as a **makeshift** bed when we have overnight guests. |
| **optimist**<br>әpˈ tә mist | n. One who looks at things in the most positive way; a cheerful, hopeful person.<br>Pat and Jean are **optimists** and so, of course, they believed the plane would not leave without us.<br><br>**optimistic** adj. Cheerful; hopeful.<br>In spite of the injuries to our best players, I am **optimistic** about our chances of winning the big game.<br><br>**optimism** n. A feeling of hope or cheerfulness.<br>The patients' **optimism** helped them recover more quickly from their illnesses. |
| **previous**<br>preˈ vә as | adj. Earlier; happening before.<br>Although I missed the last meeting, I attended the two **previous** ones. |
| **route**<br>rөut | n. 1. The path that must be followed to get to a place.<br>Our **route** to Seattle takes us through Denver.<br><br>2. A fixed course or area assigned to a sales or delivery person.<br>Magali has over a hundred customers on her newspaper **route**. |
| **summit**<br>sumˈ it | n. 1. The highest part; the top.<br>It took us three hours to climb to the **summit** of Mount Washington.<br><br>2. A conference or meeting of the top leaders of governments.<br>The **summit** of African heads of state will take place in Nairobi in late June. |
| **terse**<br>tәrs | adj. Short and to the point.<br>When I said I was sure we would be rescued soon, my friend's **terse** reply was, "How?" |
| **thwart**<br>thwert | v. To block or defeat the plans or efforts of.<br>Heavy fighting **thwarted** the UN's attempts to deliver food. |
| **vertical**<br>vәrtˈ i kәl | adj. Running straight up and down; upright.<br>The black **vertical** lines in this painting are what one notices first. |
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 5. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) the way to reach the top. (c) A lure is  
(b) a meeting of heads of state. (d) A summit is

2. (a) An optimistic statement is one (c) A previous statement is one  
(b) that is released to the public. (d) that was made earlier.

3. (a) To lure someone is (c) to offer help or advice to that person. 
(b) To thwart someone is (d) to tempt that person with promises.

4. (a) an area assigned to a (c) a payment for something done. 
salesperson. (b) A crevice is (d) A route is

5. (a) To be thwarted is to be (c) prevented from carrying out 
(b) To be challenged is to be one’s plans. (d) attracted by promises.

6. (a) An optimistic report is one (c) that is written out. 
(b) that is hopeful. (d) A terse report is one

7. (a) a call to take part in a contest. (c) A challenge is 
(b) a severe snowstorm with (d) An avalanche is 
   high winds.
8. (a) A makeshift file is one that
(b) A vertical file is one that
(c) stores things upright.
(d) gets narrower toward the top.

9. (a) A foolhardy remark is one
(b) that is short and to the point.
(c) that sounds threatening.
(d) A terse remark is one

10. (a) a split or crack in rock.
(b) a mass of falling rocks and snow.
(c) A blizzard is
(d) An avalanche is

avalanche
blizzard
challenge
conquer
crevice
foolhardy
lure
makeshift
optimist
previous
route
summit
terse
thwart
vertical
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 5.

1. Your **daring** but **unwise** leap off the boat almost cost you your life.

2. What kind of **artificial** bait is best for catching bluefish?

3. Being appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the **highest point** of General Colin Powell’s military career.

4. According to the radio, we can expect a **severe snowstorm** with very **strong winds** tonight.

5. I’m driving to Yellowstone this summer and wonder which would be the best **way to get there**.

6. The German army’s **defeat of the armed forces** of France in 1940 took less than four weeks.

7. A **deep, narrow opening made by a split in the rock** provided a toehold for the climbers making their way up the cliff face.

8. Swimming across the lake will be quite a **difficult task requiring great skill and effort**.

9. What is the reason for Gail’s **feeling that all will go well**?

10. Bruno didn’t have a pillow, so he used a rolled-up coat as a **temporary replacement for one** and slept quite soundly.
A prefix comes at the beginning of a word. The part that comes at the end is called a suffix. A suffix can change a word from one part of speech to another. The -ive ending changes the verb create into the adjective creative. The -or ending changes it into the noun creator. Notice that you may have to add, drop, or change some letters in the word before you add the suffix.

Turn the following verbs into nouns by adding the suffix -ment, -ion, -ing, or -or.

1. assign
2. distract
3. crave
4. survive

Turn the following nouns into adjectives by adding the suffix -ic, -al, or -ous.

5. optimist
6. horizon
7. nostalgia
8. carnivore

Turn the following adjectives into nouns by adding the suffix -cy, -(t)ion, or -ence.

9. accurate
10. jubilant
11. obedient
12. patient