# Lesson 3

## Word List

**ancestor**  
*n.* 1. A person from whom one is descended.  
My ancestors came from Italy.  
2. An early kind of animal from which later ones have developed; a forerunner.  
The dog-sized mesohippus is the ancestor of the modern horse.

**carnivore**  
*n.* A flesh-eating animal.  
Carnivores have sharp, pointed teeth that enable them to tear the meat they eat.  
carnivorous *adj.* (kærˈnivərəs) Flesh-eating.  
Although dogs are carnivorous, they will often eat other foods besides meat.

**comprehend**  
*v.* To understand.  
If you don’t comprehend the question, let me know and I will word it differently.  
comprehension *n.* The act of understanding; the ability to understand.  
Paweł cannot speak Spanish very well, but his comprehension is quite good.

**duration**  
*n.* The time during which something lasts or continues.  
We stayed in our house for the duration of the heavy downpour.

**evident**  
*adj.* Easy to see and understand; obvious, clear.  
It is evident from your manner that you are not happy to see me.

**extinct**  
*adj.* 1. No longer existing or living.  
The giant woolly mammoth became extinct about ten thousand years ago.  
2. No longer active.  
Mount Saint Helens was believed to be an extinct volcano until it suddenly became active in 1980.

**ferocious**  
*adj.* Savage; fierce.  
Doberman pinschers make ferocious guard dogs.  
ferocity *n.* (fəˈroʊsəˈtē) The state or quality of being fierce.  
The ferocity of the storm surprised us.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>gigantic</strong></th>
<th>adj. Very large; like a giant in size. The Spruce Goose was a <strong>gigantic</strong> airplane that made only one flight.</th>
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| **obscure** | v. To cover up or keep from being seen. Clouds **obscured** the moon.  
**adj.** 1. Hard to see; hidden. The boat was an **obscure** shape in the mist.  
2. Not easy to understand. The poem was full of **obscure** words like “clough” and “moraine.” |
| **option**  | n. Choice, or something that is available as a choice. We had the **option** of practicing soccer during the lunch break or after school.  
**optional** adj. Left to choice. Bill said we should attend the meeting, but staying for the party afterward was **optional**. |
| **premature** | adj. Too early; happening or arriving before the proper time. **Premature** babies require special care before they are allowed to leave the hospital. |
| **preserve** | v. 1. To save; to keep from harm; to protect. This law will help to **preserve** the old forests in the national parks.  
2. To keep from rotting or spoiling. Steve and Martha **preserve** the peaches from their orchard by canning them. |
| **prey**     | n. 1. An animal that is hunted for food. Chickens are the natural **prey** of foxes.  
2. One that is helpless or unable to resist attack; a victim. Be alert when you travel so that you will not be **prey** to thieves.  
 v. 1. To hunt (animals) for food. Wolves **prey** on the weakest deer in the herd.  
2. To take from or rob using violence or trickery. The pickpockets **preyed** on newly arrived tourists, who were usually concentrating on their surroundings. |
| **puny**     | adj. 1. Weak. Lifting weights can change **puny** muscles into powerful ones.  
2. Lacking in size, strength, or power. My one dollar offering seemed **puny** compared to what others gave. |
**survive**  
**v.** 1. To stay alive where there is a chance of dying or being killed. Only three passengers **survived** the plane crash.  
2. To continue living or existing through a threatening situation. Only two of the eight maple trees in our yard **survived** the hurricane.  
**survivor**  
n. One who stays alive while others die.  
**Survivors** of the shipwreck floated on life rafts until the helicopter could pick them up.

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### Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 3. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) it is easy to see.  
   (b) If something is evident,  
   (c) If something is premature,  
   (d) it has lasted for a long time.

2. (a) from whom one is descended.  
   (b) who does not eat meat.  
   (c) An ancestor is someone  
   (d) A survivor is someone

3. (a) To prey on wildlife is to  
   (b) To preserve wildlife is to  
   (c) keep it from harm.  
   (d) have a complete understanding of it.

4. (a) A gigantic volcano is one that  
   (b) An extinct volcano is one that  
   (c) is no longer active.  
   (d) is hidden from view.

5. (a) is to let it get away.  
   (b) To obscure something  
   (c) To prey on something  
   (d) is to hunt it for food.
6. (a) The comprehension of something is (c) the length of time it is delayed.  
(b) the length of time that it lasts. (d) The duration of something is

7. (a) that is very big. (c) A puny figure is one  
(b) that is well known. (d) A gigantic figure is one

8. (a) is one that has not died out. (c) A practice that is optional  
(b) is one that seems strange. (d) A practice that survives

9. (a) one that leaves nothing out. (c) An obscure report is  
(b) A premature report is (d) one that is hard to understand.

10. (a) A ferocious creature is (c) An extinct creature is  
(b) one that has died out. (d) one that eats only meat.

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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 3.

1. The house was hidden from view by a thick hedge.

2. My two-horsepower engine is lacking in power compared to the fifty-horsepower one in your boat.

3. It is easy to see from the dishes in the sink that someone has already eaten lunch.

4. The film captures the fierce behavior of a mother tiger defending her cubs.

5. The pirate Blackbeard attacked and robbed the people on ships in the Caribbean.

6. To announce the holiday schedule now would be to do so before the time is right.

7. After the flood, the people who remained alive returned to their homes to clean away the mud.

8. Alberto had no other choice open but to take the test on Friday, even though he was still sick.

9. We did not stay for the entire time of the concert because Madeleine was too tired.

10. Lions and tigers are animals that eat meat.
Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following would be **optional** on most cars?
   (a) brakes
   (b) tires
   (c) roof rack
   (d) CD player

2. Which of the following can be **preserved**?
   (a) freedom
   (b) fruit
   (c) letters
   (d) clouds

3. Which of the following can become **extinct**?
   (a) languages
   (b) volcanoes
   (c) plants
   (d) animals

4. Which of the following is an **ancestor**?
   (a) your brother
   (b) your daughter
   (c) your great-grandmother
   (d) your grandson

5. Which of the following are **carnivorous**?
   (a) wolves
   (b) rabbits
   (c) cows
   (d) deer

6. Which of the following can be **premature**?
   (a) a death
   (b) a holiday
   (c) an announcement
   (d) a baby

7. Which of the following might be **ferocious**?
   (a) a polar bear
   (b) a teddy bear
   (c) a hungry dog
   (d) a hungry baby

8. Which of the following might be hard to **comprehend**?
   (a) a computer game
   (b) a shopping list
   (c) a foreign language
   (d) a card game