

Read Naturally created this glossary as a reference book for use with Read Naturally Encore level 4.0. The definitions provided correspond to the words as they are used in the stories in this level. It is not a general dictionary.



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Glossary Read Naturally Level 4.0

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abdomen

For insects, spiders, and similar animals, the abdomen is the back part of the body that contains many organs. *A wasp has a three-*



part body: its head is in the front, its thorax is in the middle, and its abdomen is in the back.

barbed

Barbed means having a backwardfacing point coming out of the main point. A fish hook is barbed so that the hook will not slide out of the fish's mouth.



barrier

A barrier is something that blocks or stands in the way of another thing. The police put up a barrier of orange cones to keep cars from driving down the street.

burrow

A burrow is a hole in the ground dug by an animal for shelter. We could see the rabbit run down into its burrow.



chemicals

Chemicals are solid, liquid, or gas substances. Chemicals can change when they are put together with other chemicals. When the chemicals hydrogen and oxygen are combined in a certain way, they will form a new chemical: water.

fangs

Fangs are long, hollow teeth, or body parts like teeth, that an animal uses to inject poison into another animal. *The man had two stab wounds on his hand from the snake's fangs*.

feature

A feature is a special or important part of something. *Black and white stripes are one feature of a zebra*.

intruder

An intruder is a person or animal that goes to a place without being welcome or wanted there. *The fly was an intruder at our picnic.*

molting

Molting is the shedding or casting off of skin, feathers, or another body covering. *It was amazing to watch the molting of a snake; it was crawling out of its old skin.*



paralyze

Paralyze means to cause something to become unable to move. A broken neck can paralyze a person; the person will no longer be able to move her arms or legs.

rainforests

Rainforests are areas of thick forest near the equator where the weather is hot and wet. Many plants and animals live in rainforests.



rely

Rely means to depend on or need. Fish rely on their gills; they can't breathe without them.

threatened

Threatened means in danger or made to feel unsafe. *The campers were threatened by the forest fire*.

Servant or Spy?

Civil War

The Civil War was a war fought in the United States between people living in the northern states and people living in the southern states.

Confederate States

The Confederate States were a group of southern states that tried to break away from the United States and form a new country in the 1860s.



honored

Honored means showed that someone or something was important. *People honored the king by standing up when he came into the room.*

military

Military means having to do with soldiers and their weapons. My uncle had a military job for four years; during that time, he fought in a war.

permitted

Permitted means allowed something to happen. My school permitted wearing hats in the hallways, but we had to take them off in class.

servant

A servant is a person who works for other people in their homes doing household chores.

slavery

Slavery is a system that allows people to own other people and force those other people to work without pay.

South

The South is the group of states in the southeast part of the United States.

spying

Spying means trying to gather information without being caught. My sister was spying on me; she was hiding in the closet and listening to my phone call.



unintelligent

Unintelligent means not able to learn or understand things.

Union Army

The Union Army was the group of soldiers who fought for the northern states in the American Civil War.

areas

Areas are parts of a place; regions. *The family liked to go camping in areas near the Rocky Mountains.*

banned

Banned means did not allow. My school banned hats in class, but we could still wear them in the hallways.

celebration

A celebration is an event that takes place because people are happy about something or feel that it is important. At Isaac's birthday celebration, his friends played games and ate cake.

durian

A durian is a spiky tropical fruit. People break open the durian's hard outer shell to get to the creamy fruit inside.

interestingly

Interestingly means in a way that causes people to want to know more about something.

Interestingly, a goose lives in my grandma's backyard; I took a picture of it to show my friends at school.

managers

Managers are people who are in charge of part of a company or business. *The company's managers met to decide how many new workers they would need to hire.*

odor

An odor is a smell. The skunk's odor was so strong that we could smell it for a week.

opinions

Opinions are feelings or thoughts people have about things. *The students had different opinions about the movie—some loved it, and others hated it.*

raw

Raw means not cooked. *Eating raw meat can make you sick; it's important to cook it well before eating it.*

sparks

Sparks means starts or causes. A good snowfall sparks happy feelings in many children because they like to play in the snow.

tropical

Tropical means found in parts of the world near the equator, where the weather is hot and wet. Some tropical plants, like coconuts, cannot grow in cold places.

unique

Unique means different from all others. Every snowflake is unique; they all have different shapes and patterns.

varieties

Varieties are different kinds. The bowl held a few varieties of fruit, including apples, oranges, and bananas.

ability

Ability is the power to do something. Wings and feathers give birds the ability to fly.

avoid

Avoid means to stay away from. She tries to avoid stepping in puddles, because she does not like wet shoes.

claim

Claim means to say something as if it were true. *The boys claim they finished their chores.*

cornered

Cornered means trapped, in a difficult position, or unable to escape. *The thief was cornered in the alley; there was a tall fence behind him, walls on both sides, and a police officer in front of him.*

elevate

Elevate means to raise. After I twisted my ankle, the doctor told me to elevate my foot; I kept my foot raised higher than the rest of my leg.

exaggerate

Exaggerate means to make something sound bigger, better, or more interesting than it actually is. *Dad likes to exaggerate, so when he said he caught a seven-pound fish, I figured it was closer to three pounds.*

generally

Generally means usually or most of the time. *I generally don't eat mushrooms, but I do like them on pizza.*

habitat

A habitat is a place in nature where an animal or plant lives. A frog's habitat includes trees and bodies of water.

inaccurate

Inaccurate means not correct or not right.

Mel got lost because Rob gave him inaccurate directions.

originated

Originated means started or came to be. My tradition of planting a tree on my birthday originated when I turned 7, and I have been doing it every year since then.

pursue

Pursue means to follow or chase something.



treatment

A treatment is something that can fix a problem or heal an injury. *The doctor gave me a treatment of antibiotics for my ear infection.*

tremendous

Tremendous means very large or great. After a tremendous rainfall, the streets were flooded and school was cancelled.

cinders

Cinders are small pieces of things, like coal or wood, that are burning without a flame. *The fire was mostly out, but a few cinders were still burning.*

commemorate

Commemorate means to honor the memory of a person or event. *The city is building a statue that will commemorate the first mayor; people will think of him whenever they look at it.*

dynamite

Dynamite is a material that people use to blow things up. Dynamite is often used to destroy old buildings or blast tunnels through rock.



engine

An engine is the car on a train that makes the train move. *The engine was strong enough to pull more than 30 loaded train cars.*



fate

A fate is what happened, or what will happen, to someone or something. After the man got caught robbing the bank, he knew that prison would be his fate.

fired up

Fired up means started something by adding fuel to it. *Pedro turned the key and fired up his car's motor by pressing on the gas pedal.*

fuel tanks

Fuel tanks are containers that hold the gas that people burn for energy.

incredible

Incredible means hard to believe or amazing. Kofi's incredible strength helped him set the weightlifting record.

magnify

Magnify means to make bigger, louder, or stronger. *If you have a headache, loud sounds and bright lights can magnify the pain.*

mine

A mine is a place in the earth where people take minerals out of the ground. At the coal mine, workers used carts to move coal from down in the mine up to the surface.



monuments

Monuments are statues, buildings, or other structures that remind people of an event or person. *The country built*



monuments to remember the soldiers who died in the war; one monument was a statue of the soldiers, and another was a wall with the soldiers' names on it.

sacrifice

A sacrifice is the act of giving up something—usually something difficult to give up—in order to help someone or to achieve something.

Rochelle's sacrifice of one of her kidneys saved Tanya's life; Tanya would have died without a working kidney.

smokestack 1

A smokestack is a large chimney that lets out the smoke that is made when fuel is burned.

There is always a cloud of smoke coming out of the smokestack at the power plant.



agile

Agile means able to move easily, quickly, or gracefully. Cats are usually very agile; they are able to climb trees and run along the tops of fences.

agility

Agility is the ability to move easily, quickly, or gracefully. A cat's agility helps it climb trees, run along the top of a fence, or jump to the top of a wall.

darts

Darts means moves quickly and suddenly. *It is hard to catch a mouse as it darts across the room.*

desert

A desert is a dry land where few plants grow. A cactus can survive in the desert because it does not need much water.



dodge

Dodge means to avoid something by moving quickly. *Mike needed to dodge to his left to keep from being tagged with the ball.*

provoke

Provoke means to cause something to happen. If you grab a dog's food while it's eating, you may provoke it to bite.

strike

Strike means to attack suddenly, as some snakes do, by trying to hurt with their fangs. *The snake had to strike three times before it caught the mouse with its fangs*.

threat

A threat is a danger, or something that might cause harm. Flooding is a threat for houses built on the shores of a river because rivers often grow wider when it rains a lot.

venomous

Venomous means having venom, a type of poison that can hurt or kill other animals. Venom is usually delivered by a bite or sting. A venomous snake bite doesn't just break the skin; it also sends deadly poison into the wound.

won't stand a chance

If something won't stand a chance, it doesn't have what it needs to succeed in a situation. The lake is so cold and so big that I won't stand a chance of swimming all the way across it.

Running on Water

effects

Effects are things that happen because something else happened. Stomachaches and cavities are possible effects of eating too much candy.

force

Force is power, energy, or physical strength. The wind blew with such force that it knocked down the huge tree.

fortunately ²

Fortunately means luckily or because of good fortune.

immerse

Immerse means to put into and surround with liquid. We will immerse the french fries in boiling oil until they are cooked.

palm

The palm is the flat, inner part of the hand, not including the fingers. Chuck looked at the coin in the palm of his hand and then closed his hand in a fist around it.



reacts

Reacts means does a certain thing because of something else that has happened. When Bill presses on his car's brakes, the car reacts by slowing down.

resisted

Resisted means pushed back against something. When Arturo jumped on the bed, he could feel how the springs in the mattress resisted his weight and bounced him back up.

split second

A split second is a very short amount of time, less than one second. *Jose won the swimming race by a split second; he finished less than half a second ahead of the next swimmer.*

sprints

Sprints means runs fast, usually for a short distance. When Raffi sees the bus coming, he sprints to the bus stop to get on the bus before it leaves.

surface

A surface is the outside or top part of something. A boat sails on the surface of the water, and a fish swims below the surface.



Lynne Cox

avoided

Avoided means stayed away from. She avoided the puddles because she did not want her shoes to get wet.

coast

The coast is the place where an ocean touches land. When we visited the coast, we went fishing, swam in the ocean, and laid on the beach.



distributed

Distributed means spread out over an area.

eardrums

Eardrums are thin, tightly stretched parts inside of the ear that help people hear.

feat

A feat is an act that takes strength, skill, or courage to do. *Lifting 500 pounds would be a feat for most people*.

fit

Fit means healthy, strong, and in good shape. *Natasha kept fit by exercising, eating good food, and getting enough sleep.*

focused

Focused means having one's full attention on something. Hakeem was focused on getting good grades; he studied hard and listened to his teacher.

frigid

Frigid means extremely cold. I had to wear a heavy coat to stay warm in the frigid weather.

insulated

Insulated means covered or lined with something that stops heat from getting in or out. *My lunch box is insulated; when I fill it with hot food, the food stays hot.*

precautions

Precautions are actions taken ahead of time to guard against dangers or mistakes. Wearing a helmet and gloves are precautions you can take when riding a bike; if you fall off, the helmet will protect your head, and the gloves will protect your hands.

shield

Shield means to block, guard, or protect. *I used* an umbrella to shield myself from the rain.

trained

Trained means practiced or worked hard to do something well. *Jill trained for the race by running five miles every day for two months.*

wetsuit

A wetsuit is a tight-fitting piece of clothing made of material that helps people stay warm in cold water.



activity

An activity is something that people do. Brushing my teeth is an activity I do every day; riding my bike is the activity I enjoy most.

bungee jumping

Bungee jumping is the act of jumping from a high place with a stretchy cord attached to your body.

caught on

If something caught on, it became popular. After the movie star wore a big hat, the style caught on; soon many people were wearing big hats.

chores

Chores are small jobs that a person has to do often. Javier's chores are setting the table for dinner each night and making his bed each morning.

contestants

Contestants are people who play against each other in a contest or game. The spelling bee will start with 30 contestants, but only one person can win.

event

An event is something that takes place and is often planned ahead of time. A parade is an event that often takes place on holidays.

extreme

Extreme means beyond the normal or usual level. *The mountains he skied on were extreme; they were the steepest and most difficult places to ski in the country.*

iron

Iron means to make clothes smooth by using a tool that has a handle and a flat, hot bottom.

Marty doesn't want to wear a wrinkled shirt, so he will iron his shirt before he puts it on.



participants

Participants are people who take part in something. We became participants in the water balloon fight when we threw water balloons at the kids in the park.

satisfaction

Satisfaction is a feeling of happiness, often after doing a good job. *Rita felt satisfaction after getting a good grade on the difficult math test.*

skydiving

Skydiving is the act of jumping from an airplane, falling through the air, and then floating to the ground with a parachute.



sport

A sport is a game or contest that people can watch or play. *Baseball is a sport, and tennis is too.*

style

Style is a certain way of doing something. The artist has a well-known style: all of her paintings use bright colors and large circles.

well-pressed

If clothing or fabric is well-pressed, a hot iron was used to take the wrinkles out. *His shirt is well-pressed; it does not have any wrinkles.*

wrinkled

Wrinkled means something has small folds or uneven lines in it. *My clothes were wrinkled because I didn't fold them when I took them out of the dryer.*

Strength in Numbers

catch

A catch is a hidden problem or something you have to do before you can get what you expected. Mom said she would take us to the zoo tomorrow, but there was a catch: we had to finish all of our chores first.

colony

A colony is a group of the same kind of creatures living together, especially in large numbers. Each of the bees in the colony had its own important job that helped the group live and grow together.

feasting

Feasting means eating a lot of food, often in one large meal. Beth's family will spend this Thanksgiving feasting on turkey and many other dishes.

ferocious

Ferocious means wild, violent, or likely to attack. The ferocious tiger attacked and killed any animal that came near it.

instead

Instead means in place of something or rather than something else. *The restaurant was closed, so we ate dinner at home instead.*

nomadic

Nomadic means moving from one place to another instead of staying settled in the same area. *The nomadic people lived in tents as they followed the herd of animals that they hunted.*

permanent

Permanent means lasting for a long time or meant to last forever. People lose their first teeth during childhood; then they grow permanent teeth that can last the rest of their lives.

shelter

A shelter is a cover or protection from weather or danger. A house is a shelter for people; a hive is a shelter for bees.

single

Single means only one. I want a single scoop of ice cream on my cone because I am not hungry enough for two scoops.

swarm

Swarm means to move as a crowd around or toward something. *Bees may swarm around a large animal in order to attack it.*



temporary

Temporary means lasting for a short time or not lasting forever. Shane's job at the park is temporary; he will work there just for the summer.

terrain

Terrain is an area of ground or land. You will find flat, grassy terrain in the prairies, but mountain areas have a steep, rocky terrain.

actually

Actually means really, truly, or in fact. He said he was 11 years old, but he was actually only 10 years old.

amazingly

Amazingly means in a way that is not expected or is hard to believe. I forgot to study for the test, but amazingly, I did well anyway.

consume

Consume means to eat or drink. *Horses* consume hay, and many birds consume worms.

elastic

If something is elastic, it is able to be stretched out and then returned to its original shape. A rubber band is elastic; you can stretch it to fit around something much bigger than itself.

expands

Expands means increases or gets larger in size or amount. *Mwebe's knowledge of the Spanish language expands as he studies and learns more about it.*

imagine

Imagine means to form a picture or idea in your head. *He likes to imagine what it would be like to fly.*



inhabit

Inhabit means to live in a certain place.

Not many animals inhabit the Arctic because it is so cold.

scarce

Scarce means not enough or hard to get. Water was scarce because there had been no rain for several months.

stuffed

Stuffed means very full after eating. *Greg was stuffed after he finished eating the large meal;* he was too full to eat dessert.

supply

A supply is the amount of something that there is to use. *The big supply of wood will be enough to keep the fire going all night.*

swallow

Swallow means to make something go through the mouth and into the stomach. A snake can open its mouth wide enough to swallow its prey whole.

transparent

Transparent means clear or easy to see through. *The clean window is transparent.*

appearance

Appearance is the way someone or something looks. *The sky's dark and cloudy appearance makes me think it will rain soon.*

burrows

Burrows are tunnels or holes in the ground dug by animals.



doubted

Doubted means thought that something might not be true or right. David said he finished reading the book, but Chris doubted it because David didn't know how the story ended.

examined

Examined means looked at something carefully. When Cedric examined the flower, he discovered that it had eight petals and three leaves.

extraordinary

Extraordinary means beyond what is normal. The rat grew to an extraordinary size; it was almost as big as a cat!

hoax

A hoax is something that is untrue and meant to fool people. A man created fake footprints as a hoax to claim he had found proof of a monster called Bigfoot.

instead

Instead means in place of something or rather than something else. *The restaurant was closed, so we ate dinner at home instead.*

leathery

Leathery means tough but easy to bend, like leather.

live voung

Live young are babies that are born, rather than hatching from eggs laid by the mother. A dog gives birth to live young, but a hen lays eggs.

nurses

Nurses means feeds with milk from the mother's body. *A mother bear nurses her young until they are old enough to find food for themselves.*

specimen

A specimen is an example or sample that shows what something is like. *My feather collection includes one specimen from the tail of a peacock.*

unbelievable

Unbelievable means not expected or hard to believe. *It was unbelievable that Ethan won the race, because he had a sprained ankle.*

unique

Unique means different from all others. Every snowflake is unique; they all have different shapes and patterns.

venomous

Venomous means having venom, a type of poison that can hurt or kill other animals. Venom is usually delivered by a bite or sting. A venomous snake bite doesn't just break the skin; it also sends deadly poison into the wound.

webbed

Webbed means having the fingers or toes connected by a thin layer of skin. A duck has webbed feet, and a bat has long, webbed fingers that act as wings.



Slow-Moving Killer

fallen

Fallen means happened or came about. A hush had fallen over the crowd; they had been noisy before, but now no one said a word.

frantically

Frantically means wildly because of fear, worry, or pain. Joey saw the bus getting ready to leave and ran frantically to catch it before it drove away.

harpoon

A harpoon is a spear with a rope attached to it. A harpoon is used for hunting sea animals. To catch the huge fish, the man stabbed it with a harpoon and held on to the harpoon's rope so the fish could not get away.



injecting

Injecting means putting a small hole in something and forcing a liquid or gas into it. A shot works by injecting medicine into the body through a needle.

miniature

Miniature means much smaller than usual. A normal horse is over five feet tall, but a miniature horse is much smaller; it may be only three feet tall.

paralyzed

Paralyzed means unable to move a part or parts of the body. He uses a wheelchair because he is paralyzed from the waist down.

scales

Scales are flat, thin plates that cover the bodies of some animals. *Many kinds of reptiles and fish are covered in scales.*



sniffs

Sniffs means smells using the nose.

stingray

A stingray is a type of flat fish with a long tail. The tail often has a stinger that can cause serious injury.



thrashes

Thrashes means moves wildly and forcefully. She often thrashes in her sleep and kicks her blanket onto the floor.

undigested

Undigested means not digested, or not used by the body after being eaten. When our dog swallowed the plastic toy, the vet had to remove the undigested toy from his stomach.

venom

Venom is a type of poison that can hurt or kill other animals. Venom is usually delivered by a bite or sting. *The venom from some snake bites can quickly kill a larger animal.*

Galápagos

cone

A cone is something with a shape that is wide and round at one end and narrow at the other end.

emerges

Emerges means comes out of something or some place. *After pecking a hole in its shell, the new chick emerges from its egg.*

eroded

Eroded means wore away or washed away over time. After years of being outside in the rain and wind, the stone statue in our garden had eroded and lost its shape.

eruptions

Eruptions are explosions in which fire, smoke, or liquid shoots out of something. *Eruptions from volcanoes shoot lava into the air; eruptions from geysers shoot water into the air.*



landscape

A landscape is all of the things that make up an area of land, such as mountains, lakes, and plants. As he looked out at the beautiful landscape, he saw a snow-covered mountain, a large waterfall, and a clear river.

lava²⁵

Lava is hot, melted rock that comes out of a volcano.



process

A process is a series of steps in doing something. A caterpillar spends some time in a cocoon in the process of becoming a butterfly.

volcanoes

Volcanoes are openings in the earth that shoot out lava, ash, and steam; the hills around these openings, made by the cooled, hardened lava, are also called volcanoes. Lava shoots from some volcanoes, but other volcanoes no longer shoot out lava and steam.

work in progress

A work in progress is something that is not yet finished. *The picture is a work in progress because the painter is still making changes.*

ancient

Ancient means from a very long time ago. He found an ancient coin; it was over 2,000 years old.

bowling ball

A bowling ball is a hard, heavy ball used in the game of bowling. A bowling ball usually weighs about 8 to 12 pounds.



ceremonies

Ceremonies are special acts or events done in certain ways, often to celebrate something.

Wedding ceremonies usually involve two people promising to love each other in front of their families and friends.

court

A court is a flat, hard area with markings for playing some kinds of games. *Basketball, tennis, and volleyball are each played on a different kind of court.*

fast-paced

Fast-paced means quick moving or happening at high speed. *The fast-paced science class was hard to keep up with; it covered a lot of information in a short amount of time.*

fatal

Fatal means causing death. Two people died in the fatal car crash.

Mesoamerica

Mesoamerica is an area that runs south and east from central Mexico into parts of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua.



modern

Modern means present-day or how things are now. *Modern cameras are a lot smaller than cameras were 150 years ago*.

property

Property is an object, a building, or land someone owns. *This book is my property; I bought it and it belongs to me.*

religious

Religious means having to do with religion. *Churches and temples are religious buildings.*

researchers

Researchers are people who study carefully to find accurate information about something. The researchers studied the volcano to figure out why it erupted.

sacrificed

Sacrificed means killed as an offering or gift to a god.

temple

A temple is a place people go to pray. Many people go to a temple on the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

torsos

Torsos are people's bodies, not including their arms, legs, or heads.

An Untold Tragedy

American Civil War

The American Civil War was a war fought in the United States between people living in the northern states and people living in the southern states.

boiler

A boiler is a tank that heats water until it turns to steam; the steam is then used to run a machine or heat a building.

current

A current is a flow of water or any liquid in a certain direction. It was hard to paddle the canoe against the river's strong current, but when we turned around, the current carried us quickly down the river.

disaster

A disaster is a terrible event that causes harm. *The fire that destroyed the city was a disaster.*

largely

Largely means mostly or for the most part.

maritime

Maritime means having to do with water travel or moving goods with ships. *Maritime laws are the rules that people must follow when they travel by water.*

misery

Misery is great unhappiness or suffering. Alana's broken leg is causing her a lot of misery; it hurts, and it keeps her from doing the things she wants to do.

prison camps

Prison camps are places where an army keeps enemies that it captures during a war.

steamboat

A steamboat is a boat that uses an engine powered by steam. The steam is made by heating water.

struck

Struck means happened suddenly. *I was outside* when the thunderstorm struck, and *I* got very wet as *I* ran into the house.

survived

Survived means stayed alive during a difficult time. Some deer died before the end of the long winter, but most of them survived.

tragedy

A tragedy is an event that causes great loss, harm, or sadness. *The bombing of the village was a tragedy; many innocent people lost their lives.*

unbelievably

Unbelievably means in a way that is not expected or is hard to believe. *Unbelievably, Ethan won the race even though he had a sprained ankle.*

Union

Union means having to do with the northern states during the American Civil War. These states fought against the southern states that tried to break away from the United States and form a new country.

widely

Widely means by a lot of people or in a lot of places. The birth of the princess is already widely known because it was reported on the television, radio, and Internet.

bait

Bait is food that is put out to make an animal come close enough to be caught. *People often use cheese as bait to get a mouse to come to a mousetrap.*

camouflaged

If something is camouflaged, it is hidden because it looks like the things around it. It was hard to see the camouflaged soldiers in the forest, because their green and brown uniforms blended in so well.



consume

Consume means to eat or drink. *Horses* consume hay, and many birds consume worms.

dangling

Dangling means causing something to hang or swing loosely. We made the tree look nice by dangling bright ornaments from its branches.



darts

Darts means moves quickly and suddenly. It is hard to catch a mouse as it darts across the room.

environment

An environment is the area that is around a person, plant, or animal. We made a nice environment for our pet fish; we filled its bowl with fresh water and put rocks and plants on the bottom.

gaping

Gaping means wide open. Her gaping mouth was open so wide that I could see all of her teeth.

lure

A lure is something that is used to trick fish into coming close enough to be caught. *She used a shiny metal lure when she went fishing.*

lurked

Lurked means stayed hidden. The spy lurked in the shadows where people could not see him listening to their conversation.



pitch-black

Pitch-black means very, very dark. The deepest part of the cave was pitch-black; I could not even see my hand when I put it in front of my face.

predator

A predator is an animal that kills other animals for food. *An owl is a predator that eats mice*.

prey

Prey is an animal hunted by another animal for food. A fly is a frog's prey, and a mouse is prey for cats and owls.



spine

A spine is a long, stiff part of a plant or animal that sticks out and is usually pointed. *Each spine* on the cactus looks like a needle.



surface

A surface is the outside or top part of something. A boat sails on the surface of the water, and a fish swims below the surface.



would-be

Would-be means hoping or trying to do or be something. *The would-be actor never got a big role, so he became a chef instead.*

Planting Hope

abroad

Abroad means in or to a country that is not one's own. Nina lives in the United States, but she went abroad for her vacation; she spent two weeks in China.

campaign

A campaign is a set of actions over a period of time, done to achieve a specific goal. *Our class started a campaign to raise money for new books; over several weeks, students will sell candy bars and wash cars.*

cash crops

Cash crops are grains, fruits, vegetables, or other plants that farmers grow in order to make money. Some farmers grow only enough food to feed their families, but other farmers grow cash crops which they sell to others.

cleared

Cleared means got rid of. *Mike* cleared the forest by chopping down trees.



Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize is an award given to someone whose work has made peace more likely.

preserve

Preserve means to keep something in good condition. We want to preserve our carpet, so we always take our shoes off before walking on it.

recognized

Recognized means knew or remembered because of past experience. *I knew that Mom was baking cookies because I recognized the smell in the kitchen.*

recruited

Recruited means got other people to join or participate in something. We had plenty of workers after we recruited people to help with the job.

restore

Restore means to make something as good as it was before. *To restore the old painting, the museum worker cleaned it and gave it a new frame.*

solution

A solution is an answer to a problem. At the meeting, we found a solution to the parking problem during ball games; we would make the buses cheaper and have more of them.

village

A village is a very small town.

approaches

Approaches means gets closer. *Katie always* gets excited when her birthday approaches; she likes to check off the days on the calendar as she waits for the day to come.

Arctic Circle

The Arctic Circle is an imaginary line that goes around the northern part of the planet, where temperatures are very cold.



breeds

Breeds means mates or has babies. A rabbit breeds often, so it may have over 30 babies in a year.

destination

A destination is a place to which someone is going. We were very tired when we reached our destination because we had been driving for a long time.

journey

A journey is a long trip. My journey from New York to California was about 3,000 miles and took 4 days of driving.

long gone

Long gone means has been gone for a long time. I was looking for Dave at the party, but Wendy told me he was long gone; she said Dave had left three hours ago.

migrate

Migrate means to move from one area to another based on the seasons or time of year. Some birds stay in the same place all year, but others migrate to a warmer place in winter.

migration

A migration is a move from one area to another. A salmon's migration starts in the ocean and ends in the river where the salmon was born.

near-constant

Near-constant means almost all the time. *Mia kept a near-constant watch on her kids at the park; she looked away from them only a few times.*

northernmost

Northernmost means furthest to the north. *Canada is the northernmost country in North America.*

route

A route is a way or path to get somewhere. The bus driver takes the same route to school every morning.

shores

Shores are lands next to a body of water. *You can find many seashells on Florida's shores.*



takes it to the extreme

Takes it to the extreme means goes the furthest or does the most possible. The skier takes it to the extreme; he skis on the most difficult mountains in the world.

temporary

Temporary means lasting for a short time or not lasting forever. Shane's job at the park is temporary; he will work there just for the summer.

zigzagging

Zigzagging means having a path that turns sharply in one direction and then another, like the letter Z. Travis dragged the stick back and forth through the sand as he walked, leaving a zigzagging trail behind him.



boldly

Boldly means in way that is clear and easy to notice. *I was able to spot my friend in the crowded room because of her boldly colored shirt.*

client

A client is a customer of a business that offers a service. *Deanna is a client of that hair salon;* she goes there every time she needs her hair cut.

coral reefs

Coral reefs are stone-like structures under the surface of the ocean that are built up over a long time from the skeletons of many tiny sea animals called corals.

Coral reefs are the homes of living corals.

dart

Dart means to move suddenly and quickly. A rabbit may dart away if a noise frightens or surprises it.

examine

Examine means to check something closely to find out more about it. *Mario had a doctor examine him each year to make sure he was healthy.*

gills

Gills are body parts that animals living in water use to breathe. *My goldfish's gills let it breathe under water.*



latch

Latch means to attach or fasten onto something. The leech used its suckers to latch onto my skin; it was hard to pull the leech off.

offer

Offer means to sell or provide something. We offer boots and sandals at our shoe store.

parasites

Parasites are living things that live on or inside of another living thing and get food from it. *Ticks and leeches are parasites that feed on the blood of living animals.*

poses

Poses means holds one's body in a certain position. *Ellen poses for the picture by sitting very still and smiling*.

similar

Similar means alike or almost the same. *A frog and a toad look similar*:

stations

Stations are places where workers do a certain kind of job. *Police stations have special tools that help the police detectives solve crimes*.

striped

Striped means marked with bands of color. *A zebra has a black and white striped coat.*



calf

A calf is the young of a cow or bull, or of certain other animals, such as whales, dolphins, buffalo, elephants, and giraffes. A mother dolphin takes good care of her calf after it is born.



celebrity

A celebrity is a person or animal that is famous. The actor is a celebrity, so people often recognize him when he walks down the street.

channel

A channel is a path of water that connects two larger bodies of water.



communicate

Communicate means to tell or share information and ideas. *Sometimes we can communicate more with a smile than we can by speaking or writing.*

kayakers

Kayakers are people who paddle small, canoe-like boats called kayaks. *The kayakers paddled down the river.*



local

Local means near or in the neighborhood. We walked to the local grocery store to buy some bread.

open water

Open water is an area of water that is wide enough or deep enough to move around in freely. The sailor slowly moved his boat



away from the crowded dock; when he reached open water, he knew he could safely go fast.

rescuers

Rescuers are people or animals that save others from danger or harm. Rescuers carried the little girl out of the burning house.

sandbar

A sandbar is a long, raised area of sand in a body of water. The sandbar in the middle of the lake makes the water so shallow we can't drive the boat over it.

saved the day

Saved the day means fixed a bad situation or rescued others from a bad situation. When Jim forgot his report at home, Carol saved the day by driving it over to his office in time for the important meeting.

scene

A scene is a place where an activity or event is going on. *Our kitchen has been the scene of many great dinners*.

stranded

Stranded means stuck in a place that is hard to get out of without help. *Julio was stranded when his car broke down in the middle of the desert; there was no one around to help him.*

Spiral Island

artificial

Artificial means made by people, not made by nature. *The real plants in my room kept dying, so I bought artificial plants instead.*

base

A base is the bottom or lowest part of something. *I didn't want to climb the hill, so I stayed down at the base while my friends went up.*



constructing

Constructing means making, forming, or building. *The workers were constructing a new road because the old one was too bumpy.*

environment

The environment is the outside and all that lives there. Rain is good for the environment because it helps plants grow.

hurricane

A hurricane is a huge storm in which strong winds move at 74 miles per hour or faster. A hurricane often includes heavy rain. It forms over warm ocean waters and sometimes moves onto land.

located

Located means set in a certain place. The rosebush is located in the back yard near the fence.

plastic

Plastic is a material that can be molded into many things. *Toys*, *cups*, *and pencil boxes can be made of plastic*.

reality

A reality is what is true or actually happening. She always dreamed of becoming an author; when she sold her first book, that dream became a reality.

stable

Stable means secure or not easily moved. I fixed the broken leg on the chair so that it would be more stable.

tropical

Tropical means found in parts of the world near the equator, where the weather is hot and wet. Some tropical plants, like coconuts, cannot grow in cold places.

ambitious

Ambitious means bold or grand in what you set out to accomplish. We thought his plan to win the marathon was too ambitious, but he proved us wrong when he won.

bribed

Bribed means gave money or gifts to someone in return for unfair help. *During the ice-skating contest, Maria bribed the judge by giving him* \$100; in return, the judge gave Maria a better score than she deserved.

competition

Competition happens when people try to do better than each other. *There is a lot of competition between the two brothers; they always have contests to see who is better at something.*

cooperation

Cooperation is working together to get something done. Meg washed the dishes, I dried them, and Liz put them away; thanks to our cooperation, we quickly finished the job.

extinct

Extinct means all of a kind of plant or animal has died out, and none of that kind are living anymore. *Dinosaurs became extinct long ago; they have not been alive for millions of years.*

feud

A feud is long-lasting and hateful disagreement between two people or groups. *The brothers couldn't agree about who should get the family farm; their feud lasted years and caused them to become enemies.*

fossil beds

Fossil beds are layers of rock that cover large areas and contain many remains of plants and animals from long ago. *Millions of years ago, parts of North America were covered by ocean, and there are fossil beds from that time where you can find the remains of early sea life.*

fossils

Fossils are what is left of plants and animals that have been dead a very long time. The museum has fossils of plants that lived millions of years ago.



identify

Identify means to recognize or figure out who someone is or what something is. *The man wore a police uniform, so I was able to identify him as a police officer.*

in print

In print means in written materials, such as magazines, books, and newspapers. *Jenny told her story to a reporter; in the next day's newspaper, the story appeared in print.*

insulted

Insulted means said or did something that made another person feel bad. *Jan insulted Craig by saying his shirt was ugly.*

interfered

Interfered means got involved in a way that caused a problem. *The crowd's loud cheering interfered with the man's speech; people could hardly hear his words over the crowd's noise.*

mistrust

Mistrust is a feeling that someone or something is trying to hurt you, trick you, or lie to you.

respected

Respected means thought that something or someone was important and worth paying attention to. *Maggie respected her parents, so she did not argue with them when they asked her to clean her room.*

species

Species are groups of plants or animals that are alike in certain ways. *Mammals include many species such as lions, giraffes, and humans.*

accomplishment

An accomplishment is something that a person sets out to do and then succeeds in doing. *Max wanted to learn how to tie his own shoes; when he finally did learn, he was proud of his accomplishment.*

beloved

Beloved means greatly loved or appreciated. Carlos spends all his time with his beloved wife; he loves her more than he loves anyone else.

career

A career is all the jobs a person has had that relate to a certain kind of work. Before starting a career, a person often has to train for it. My grandpa has had a long career as a doctor; he has worked at four different hospitals over the last 35 years.

challenges

Challenges are problems or things that make a task more difficult. We faced many challenges on our way to the party, such as slow traffic and road construction, but we still arrived on time.

endure

Endure means to suffer through or put up with something. *After the third week of high temperatures, we wondered how much longer we would have to endure the heat.*

focus

Focus means to pay close attention to something. *I am going to focus on my homework because I want to get a good grade.*

hero

A hero is someone who is special because of doing something good or brave. *The man is a hero because he pulled the baby from the burning car.*

Major League²

Major League means having to do with the best baseball teams in North America. *Major League baseball players are professional athletes who earn lots of money.*

ordeal

An ordeal is a very difficult, painful, or trying experience. The woman was lost in the forest for a week; she lived through this ordeal by eating berries and drinking rainwater.

record

A record is the best any person has ever done on something. The best runner in the world set a record in the Olympics; no one had ever run faster.

season

In sports, a season is the time of year when the athletes play their games. *His baseball season started in May and ended in August.*

surpass

Surpass means to go beyond or to be larger, greater, or better than. My mom's meals surpass all others in flavor; nobody cooks tastier food than she does.

threatening

Threatening means wanting to cause harm or make someone feel unsafe. *The bully gave me a threatening look; I was worried that he wanted to hurt me.*

throughout

Throughout means all through a certain time or in every part of something. I could hear the birds chirping throughout the morning; they did not stop until the afternoon.

tied

Tied means got the same time or the same score as someone else in a contest.



