

# LESSON 4 ENTHUSIASM

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Enthusiasm, an intense feeling for or interest in something, is an important factor in success. An enthusiasm for playing the violin or guitar inspires musicians to put in the long hours of practice to master it. An enthusiasm for helping others motivates people to serve in the Peace Corps or in other volunteer organizations. Enthusiasm for curing disease will often lead to the years of research to develop new medicines that enable all of us to lead healthier lives. As the famous American author Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." This lesson contains words that will help you to express your own enthusiasm about activities that you enjoy.

## WORD LIST

allure  
avid  
exhilarate  
exult  
fanatic  
fervor  
jubilant  
motivate  
zealous  
zest

## DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each word, write the vocabulary word on the line to the right.

1. **allure** (ə-lŏor') *noun* A strong attraction or fascination. *verb* To attract or tempt.

**Example** Ron could not resist the *allure* of the sea and joined the navy.

2. **avid** (äv'id) *adjective* Eager; very enthusiastic. (From the Latin word *avere*, meaning "to desire")

**Related Words** *avidity noun; avidly adverb*

**Example** An *avid* reader may finish two books a week.

3. **exhilarate** (ĭg-zĭl'ə-rāt') *verb* a. To make extremely happy; to inspire.  
b. To refresh or invigorate. (From the Greek word *hilaros*, meaning "cheerful")

**Related Word** *exhilaration noun*

**Example** *Exhilarated* by their first prize in the debate contest, the students ran off the bus shouting, "We won!"

4. **exult** (ĭg-zŭlt') *verb* To rejoice greatly. (From the Latin *ex-*, meaning "out," and *salire*, meaning "to leap")

**Related Words** *exultant adjective; exultation noun*

**Example** The students *exulted* after their team won the state championship.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMORY CUE: The word *allure* has *lure* in it.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
USAGE NOTE: *Exult* means "to express joy." *Exalt* means "to raise in positions or status."

5. **fanatic** (fə-năt'ik) *noun* A person who believes in a cause or an idea to an extent that is unreasonable or abnormal. (From the Latin word *fanaticus*, meaning "inspired by a god")

**Related Words** *fanatical adjective; fanatically adverb; fanaticism noun*

**Example** *Fanatics* often do not listen to those who have opposing viewpoints.

6. **fervor** (fûr'vər) *noun* A state of great or intense emotion. (From the Latin word *fervere*, meaning "to boil")

**Related Word** *fervent adjective*

**Example** With great *fervor*, the scientist told the group about her theory.

7. **jubilant** (joo'bə-lənt) *adjective* Full of joy; in a rejoicing mood. (From the Latin word *jubilare*, meaning "to raise a shout of joy")

**Related Word** *jubilation noun*

**Example** Mary was *jubilant* when she was selected for the varsity squad.

8. **motivate** (mō'tə-vāt') *verb* To provide with an incentive or a reason to act in a certain way. (From the Latin word *movere*, meaning "to move")

**Related Words** *motivation noun; motive noun*

**Example** His intense desire to win *motivated* Brad to shoot baskets for hours.

9. **zealous** (zēl'əs) *adjective* Fiercely dedicated, especially in pursuing a cause, an ideal, or a goal.

**Related Words** *zeal noun; zealot noun; zealously adverb*

**Example** Betsy was *zealous* in her campaign for class president.

10. **zest** (zĕst) *noun* Spirited enjoyment; eagerness.

**Related Words** *zestful adjective; zestfully adverb*

**Example** With great *zest* Isabel planned the birthday party for her father.

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMORY CUE: The word *fan* comes from *fanatic*.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that best fits each definition.

1. To make very happy; invigorate
2. A person who has an extreme belief in a cause
3. A strong attraction
4. Fiercely dedicated to a cause or a goal
5. Full of joy
6. To provide with a reason to do something
7. Spirited enjoyment; gusto
8. Eager or enthusiastic
9. A state of intense emotion
10. To rejoice greatly

## EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Each of the following questions contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide the answer to the question, and write *Yes* or *No* on the answer line.

1. Might a citizen who is *zealous* about safety argue in favor of installing a traffic light at a dangerous intersection?
2. Would a person who is *avid* about golf try to avoid playing it?
3. Is a *fanatic* likely to be influenced by someone with a different opinion?
4. Is a swim in a cool pond likely to be *exhilarating*?
5. Would a *jubilant* person burst into tears of sadness?
6. Would living in Florida have great *allure* for someone who prefers cold weather?
7. Would the supporters of a candidate *exult* if that person lost an election?
8. Might a speaker show *fervor* by raising her voice and gesturing enthusiastically with her hands?
9. Would a person who is full of *zest* seem bored by most activities?
10. Would a *motivated* coin collector be alert for opportunities to obtain more coins?

### EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION

For each italicized vocabulary word or related form in the following sentences, write the letter of the best definition on the answer line.

1. Jody was a the Red Sox *fanatic*.  
a. strong believer   b. occasional fan   c. dreamer   d. authority
2. Leroy read the speech from *Hamlet* with such *fervor* that his voice trembled.  
a. happiness   b. intensity   c. lack of interest   d. fear
3. When our soccer team won the finals, the whole school *exulted* in the victory.  
a. shared   b. rejoiced   c. mourned   d. ignored
4. Carl is so *zealous* about the need for peace that he has written a book on the subject.  
a. apathetic   b. knowledgeable   c. dedicated   d. brave
5. My grandmother, who is sixty, still plays tennis with energy and *zest*.  
a. enthusiasm   b. suffering   c. strength   d. weakness
6. Ruth found the prospect of riding a raft down the Snake River *alluring*.  
a. frightening   b. boring   c. peculiar   d. attractive
7. Despite the danger, the hikers were *exhilarated* by their climb up steep, narrow trails.  
a. worried   b. worn out   c. invigorated   d. scared
8. Julio has an *avid* interest in archaeology.  
a. mysterious   b. enthusiastic   c. mild   d. humorous
9. Even before time ran out, *jubilant* fans stood at the sidelines of the football field.  
a. gloomy   b. overjoyed   c. critical   d. dangerous
10. Jason uses a carrot to *motivate* his mule to pull the wagon.  
a. persuade   b. punish   c. discourage   d. ask

### EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Decide which form of the word in parentheses best completes the sentence. The form given may be correct. Write your answer on the answer line.

1. Lisa certainly plays tennis \_\_\_\_! (*zest*)
2. We took an \_\_\_\_ swim in a spring-fed lake. (*exhilarate*)
3. Our math teacher \_\_\_\_ reads software magazines. (*avid*)
4. Pat is \_\_\_\_ about the need to preserve the environment. (*zealous*)
5. The \_\_\_\_ graduates cheered at the end of the ceremony. (*exult*)
6. The prosecutor will prove that the defendant had both a \_\_\_\_ and an opportunity to commit the crime. (*motivate*)
7. The family reunion last summer was a time of \_\_\_\_ for all of us. (*jubilant*)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

8. Julie's most \_\_\_\_\_ wish is to get a job as a lifeguard. (*fervor*) 8.
9. Part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the restaurant is its elegant appearance. (*allure*) 9.
10. In the novel *Moby Dick*, Captain Ahab pursues the white whale with single-minded \_\_\_\_\_. (*fanatic*) 10.

## READING COMPREHENSION

