

Suppose that someone said, "My car stalled, so I raised the *bonnet* and looked at the engine." This sentence would make perfect sense to a person who had grown up in England. Someone raised in the United States, however, would express the same thought by saying, "My car stalled, so I raised the *hood* and looked at the engine." Americans use the word *hood*, but the English say *bonnet* because of differences in the dialects of the English language.

Dialects are systematic variations in the pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar of a language that distinguish one group from another. This lesson contains words that are used to discuss dialects and the variety of ways in which people talk to one another.

WORD LIST

accent
articulate
dialect
diction
enunciate
fundamental
intelligible
peer,
status
stress

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **accent** (ăk'sent') *noun* A style of speech or pronunciation that is characteristic of a certain region or country. *verb* To emphasize in speech or in music. (From the Latin *ad-*, meaning "to," and *cantus*, meaning "song")

Related Word **accentuate** *verb*

Example When Hans speaks English, he has a slight German *accent*.

1. _____

2. **articulate** (ăr-tĭk'yə-lĭt) *adjective* a. Expressed in a clear and effective manner. b. Able to speak effectively. *verb* (ăr-tĭk'yə-lăt') To express in words.

Related Words **articulately** *adverb*; **articulation** *noun*

Example In an *articulate* speech, the student council president talked about the exciting opportunities open to the graduates.

2. _____

3. **dialect** (dĭ'ə-lĕkt') *noun* The form or version of a language that is spoken in a country or region or by a particular social group; a dialect has characteristic differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. (From the Greek word *dialektos*, meaning "language")

Related Word **dialectal** *adjective*

Example In the United States, people who speak northern *dialects* refer to "corn on the cob"; those who speak southern *dialects* refer to "roasting ears."

3. _____

4. **diction** (dik'shən) *noun* a. The choice and use of words in speaking or writing. b. Distinctness of pronunciation. (From the Latin word *dicere*, meaning "to say") 4. _____
- Example** The *diction* of an encyclopedia article is more difficult than that of a comic book.
5. **enunciate** (i-nūn'sē-āt') *verb* a. To pronounce, especially in a clear manner. b. To state or set forth clearly. (From the Latin *ex-*, meaning "out," and *nuntiare*, meaning "to announce") 5. _____
- Related Word** **enunciation** *noun*
- Example** The candidate carefully *enunciated* his words so that the huge audience would understand him.
6. **fundamental** (fūn'də-mēn'tl) *adjective* a. Basic; primary; essential. b. Of major significance. *noun* A basic or necessary part: *the fundamentals of science*. (From the Latin word *fundamentum*, meaning "foundation") 6. _____
- Related Word** **fundamentally** *adverb*
- Example** Plumbers must master the *fundamental* techniques of their trade.
7. **intelligible** (in-tēl'i-jə-bəl) *adjective* Able to be understood. (From the Latin word *intellegerē*, meaning "to perceive") 7. _____
- Related Words** **intelligibility** *noun*; **intelligibly** *adverb*
- Example** The telegram written in code was not *intelligible* to Eleanor.
8. **peer** (pîr) *noun* a. A person who is equal to another in age, class, or rank. b. A member of the British nobility. (From the Latin word *par*, meaning "equal") 8. _____
- Example** Five-year-old Scott avoided his *peers* because he preferred to play with older children.
9. **status** (stăt'əs) *noun* a. Position in society; condition. b. A stage of progress or development. (From the Latin word *status*, meaning "position" or "standing") 9. _____
- Example** Owning a carriage was once considered a symbol of high social *status*.
10. **stress** (strēs) *verb* To emphasize, particularly when speaking. *noun* a. Emphasis, particularly when speaking. b. Importance; significance. 10. _____
- Example** People learning some foreign languages may *stress* the wrong syllables in words.

Word History: fundamental

Latin: *fundamentum* < *fundare* = to lay foundation of < *fundus* = bottom

The word *fundamental*, meaning "basic, primary, or essential," comes from the Latin root *fundus*, meaning "bottom." Any word containing this root, which occurs in English as *found-* or *fund-*, conveys the idea of bottom or basic level. Consider such examples as *founder*, "one who establishes the basis of an institution, business, or city"; *foundation*, "the basis upon which a building stands"; or *profound*, "coming from the very bottom."

EXERCISE 1 MATCHING WORDS AND DEFINITIONS

Match the definition in Column B with the word in Column A. Write the letter of the correct definition on the answer line.

Column A

1. enunciate
2. peer
3. stress
4. fundamental
5. intelligible
6. articulate
7. status
8. dialect
9. accent
10. diction

Column B

- a. To pronounce, especially in a clear manner
- b. Choice of words in speaking or writing
- c. Expressed in a clear and effective way
- d. A person who is equal to another
- e. A form of a language spoken in a region or by a group
- f. Position in society; stage of progress
- g. A style of speech or pronunciation that is characteristic of a certain region
- h. To emphasize, particularly when speaking
- i. Able to be understood
- j. Basic or essential; of major significance

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Decide whether the italicized vocabulary word has been used correctly in the sentence. On the answer line, write *Correct* for correct use and *Incorrect* for incorrect use.

1. The Franklin family has enjoyed high *status* in this city for many years.
2. People should *enunciate* clearly when writing letters.
3. The director told the actors and actresses to work on perfecting their English *accents*.
4. People stopped listening to the speech because it was so *articulate*.
5. Army officers and their *peers*, the enlisted men, must cooperate on the battlefield.
6. If your teacher *stresses* a certain subject, you would be wise to study that subject carefully.
7. The *dialect* is an important part of the telephone.
8. Drivers today need a *fundamental* understanding of automobiles in case their cars break down.
9. Dana could not figure out what the note said because it was *intelligible*.
10. People can improve their *diction* by using electronic calculators.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. Paula, who grew up in Maine, still speaks with a New England _____.
a. status b. accent c. fundamental d. peer
2. The actors' _____ improved so that they could be heard in the last row of the auditorium.
a. peer b. status c. dialect d. enunciation
3. My brother muttered a comment that was barely _____.
a. intelligible b. fundamental c. dialect d. diction
4. Buddy enjoyed his _____ as class president.
a. diction b. dialect c. status d. stress
5. The politician's remarks were so _____ that the crowd cheered.
a. articulate b. accented c. dialectal d. enunciated
6. Instead of always pleasing their _____, people should also please themselves.
a. status b. diction c. dialects d. peers
7. Computer skills are _____ to the modern office worker.
a. accented b. fundamental c. intelligible d. status
8. Because of their clear _____, we could understand every word of the choir's song.
a. dialect b. status c. diction d. accent
9. The _____ of the magazine article was on the importance of exercising regularly.
a. enunciation b. stress c. peer d. fundamental
10. When Roger spoke, his _____ indicated that he had grown up in our part of the country.
a. fundamental b. status c. peer d. dialect

EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

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

1. The board of directors was _____ opposed to major advertising expenditures. (*fundamental*)
2. The comedian is a master of many foreign _____. (*accent*)
3. Gloria seemed much older than her _____ in high school. (*peer*)
4. Yesterday Mr. Chang _____ that the final examination would cover ten chapters. (*stress*)
5. The coach of the debate team spent an hour discussing _____. (*enunciate*)
6. If you do not speak _____, people may misunderstand you. (*intelligible*)

NAME _____

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7. I could not determine where Joni lived from hearing her _____. (*dialect*)
8. The poem's _____ was both formal and ornate. (*diction*)
9. Some people are better than others at _____ their feelings. (*articulate*)
10. Each committee member reported on the _____ of his or her project. (*status*)

READING COMPREHENSION