

A familiar story concerns the shepherd who cries "Wolf!" in order to get his fellow villagers to pay him a visit on a lonely hillside. After he has played this trick two or three times, though, the townspeople ignore his cries when a wolf really does appear.

One important lesson of this fable involves communication. By using the word *wolf* to trick the villagers, the shepherd robs the word of its true meaning. Consequently, when the villagers hear that word from the shepherd, they do not associate it with danger.

Communication requires us to agree on what we mean by particular words, gestures, and other symbols. In this lesson you will learn words about communication.

WORD LIST

audible
coherent
digress
eloquent
garble
impromptu
monologue
oratory
proclaim
verbal

EN 6 IV

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **audible** (ə'də-bəl) *adjective* Capable of being heard. (From the Latin word *audire*, meaning "to hear")

Related Words *audibly* *adverb*; *audition* *noun*

Example Dog whistles are not *audible* to humans because they are too high-pitched.

1. _____

2. **coherent** (kō-hīr'ənt) *adjective* Clearly thought out or expressed. (From the Latin word *cohaerere*, meaning "to cling together")

Related Words *coherence* *noun*; *coherently* *adverb*

Example The writer did a good job of making the explanation *coherent* for the reader.

2. _____

3. **digress** (dī-grēs') *verb* To stray from the main subject when you are writing or speaking. (From the Latin *dis-*, meaning "apart," and *gradi*, meaning "to go")

Related Word *digression* *noun*

Example In his talk about carnivals, the speaker *digressed* by giving impressions of different cities.

3. _____

4. **eloquent** (ēl'ə-kwənt) *adjective* Persuasive and graceful in speaking or writing. (From the Latin word *eloqui*, meaning "to speak out")

Related Words *eloquence* *noun*; *eloquently* *adverb*

Example The speaker at the United Nations made an *eloquent* plea for better relations among nations.

4. _____

5. **garble** (gär'bəl) *verb* To mix up or scramble a piece of communication so much that people cannot understand it. 5. _____
- Example** The speaker *garbled* his words to the extent that we could not follow his talk.
6. **impromptu** (im-prömp'tōō) *adjective* Presented without preparation or rehearsal. *adverb* Without rehearsal or preparation. (From the Latin phrase *in promptu*, meaning "at hand") 6. _____
- Example** At the awards ceremony, the crowd urged the singer to give an *impromptu* performance.
7. **monologue** (mön'ə-lōg') *noun* A long speech made by one person. From the Greek words *monos*, meaning "one," and *logos*, meaning "speech") 7. _____
- Related Word** **monologist** *noun*
- Example** The professor started a long *monologue* about the nesting habits of various birds.
8. **oratory** (ôr'ə-tôr'ē) *noun* The art of speaking in public. (From the Latin word *oratoria*, meaning "the art of speaking") 8. _____
- Related Words** **orate** *verb*; **oration** *noun*; **orator** *noun*; **oratorical** *adjective*
- Example** Daniel Webster was famous for his inspiring *oratory*.
9. **proclaim** (prō-klām') *verb* a. To declare so plainly that there is no doubt as to one's meaning. b. To announce officially and in public. (From the Latin *pro-*, meaning "forward," and *clamare*, meaning "to cry out") 9. _____
- Related Word** **proclamation** *noun*
- Example** After she saw that her last experiment had proved her theory, Dr. Bernstein *proclaimed* her success to the world.
10. **verbal** (vûr'bəl) *adjective* Communicated through words. (From the Latin word *verbum*, meaning "word") 10. _____
- Related Word** **verbally** *adverb*
- Example** It is wiser to have a written contract rather than just a *verbal* agreement.
- USAGE NOTE: Compare *monologue* with *dialogue*, a conversation between two people.
- USAGE NOTE: *Verbal* usually means "communicated through words." *Oral* has a similar but narrower definition of "spoken."

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EXERCISE 12 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. audible
2. digress
3. eloquent
4. garble
5. monologue
6. oratory
7. proclaim
8. verbal
9. coherent
10. impromptu

Column B

- a. to mix up or scramble a message
- b. to announce or declare plainly
- c. capable of being heard
- d. presented without rehearsal
- e. clearly thought out or expressed
- f. to stray from the main subject
- g. the art of public speaking
- h. persuasive and graceful
- i. a long speech by one person
- j. expressed through words

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

EXERCISE 13 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. Cassandra whispered in such *audible* tones that several people nearby heard her.
2. Alex worked for days preparing his *impromptu* speech.
3. The student's *coherent* essay won the composition prize for clarity.
4. During the Civil War, President Lincoln *proclaimed* the slaves forever free.
5. The debaters *digressed*, sticking closely to the chosen topic.
6. Throughout his *eloquent* speech, the actor stammered and lost his place.
7. The sailor's words were so *garbled* by the wind that the people on the pier could not hear him.
8. Henry answered my question with a *monologue* that prevented anyone else from speaking.
9. The test required *verbal* answers, such as diagrams and sketches.
10. Willy, who is skilled at *oratory*, has won several public-speaking awards.

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

EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION

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

1. The distant tree fell with an *audible* crash. 1.
a. able to be seen b. dangerous c. able to be heard d. silent
2. The performing seal responded to *verbal* commands. 2.
a. mysterious c. shouted
b. consisting of words d. consisting of gestures
3. During a lesson about the Revolutionary War, our social studies teacher *digressed* by telling stories about George Washington's boyhood. 3.
a. kept our interest c. emphasized important points
b. strayed from the topic d. added more information
4. After Wilson's dog pulled two children from the river, our town *proclaimed* that the pet was a hero. 4.
a. denied c. publicly declared
b. thought d. started a rumor
5. Mrs. Collins made an *eloquent* speech in favor of restoring historic buildings. 5.
a. unfair b. persuasive c. poor d. old-fashioned
6. Action, not *oratory*, was the prizefighter's strong point. 6.
a. thinking b. singing c. arguing d. public speaking
7. The telegraph operator *garbled* my message. 7.
a. lost b. growled c. threw away d. mixed up
8. Professor Simons bored everyone with her *monologue* about her vacation. 8.
a. long speech b. song c. photograph album d. long joke
9. The man gave me *coherent* directions for finding the theater. 9.
a. boring b. interesting c. well-organized d. complicated
10. When the substitute failed to arrive, the principal made an *impromptu* appearance as our teacher. 10.
a. unrehearsed b. entertaining c. late d. exciting

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. Her teacher asked Maura to speak more _____. (*audible*) 1.
2. The article was difficult to follow because of its many _____. (*digress*) 2.
3. The senator argued _____ in favor of the bill. (*eloquent*) 3.
4. The sound on the television set was _____. (*garble*) 4.
5. Because Tom had forgotten to prepare a speech, he had to give an _____ one. (*impromptu*) 5.
6. One of the goals of students in a speech class is to speak _____ in front of a group. (*coherent*) 6.

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7. The general manager and the player _____ agreed to a new contract.
(*verbal*)
8. The Declaration of Independence was the _____ by the American colonies that they "ought to be Free and Independent States." (*proclaim*)
9. Because of her _____ ability, Katya addressed the assembly. (*oratory*)
10. My cousin does not converse; he delivers _____. (*monologue*)

7.

8.

9.

10.

READING COMPREHENSION

the top of some heavy _____