

★ Lesson 10 ★

Word List

Study the words below. Then do the exercises for the lesson.

cable *n.* 1. A thick steel rope made of strands of wire twisted together. A cable with a large hook on the end dangled from the top of the crane. 2. A bundle of wires covered by rubber or plastic along which an electric current can pass. The electric company will run an underground cable from this station to Quincy to provide extra power when it is needed.

cathedral *n.* A large and important church. The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. is the sixth largest in the world.

convey *v.* 1. To carry or move from one place to another. A wagon with high sides conveyed the cut sugarcane to the mill. 2. To make an idea or feeling known. As the curtain closed, the crowd clapped loudly to convey how much they had enjoyed the play.



device *n.* Something made or invented for a particular use. When you need a device for lifting heavy weights without a great deal of effort, a lever will work best.

freight *n.* Goods carried from place to place, as by plane, boat, truck, or train. The trains passing through this station carry freight from the middle of the country to the East Coast.

landmark *n.* 1. A building or natural feature that is easy to see and can be used as a guide. The Gateway Arch is a well-known landmark in St. Louis. 2. An important event. The discovery that certain bacteria can cause disease was a landmark in the history of medicine.

method *n.* A way of doing something. Tara's method for bringing her cat inside is to shake the container with treats.



rod *n.* A thin, straight piece of wood, metal, or other material. The shower curtain hung from a metal rod.

shaft *n.* 1. A long open tunnel that runs straight up and down. The coal miners traveled for five minutes to reach the bottom of the mine shaft. 2. A bar that connects with other moving parts of a machine. The drive shaft sends power from the car engine to the wheels. 3. The long, narrow part of an arrow or other object. Felix made sure the shafts of his arrows were in a straight line.



structure *n.* Something that is built, as a building or bridge. From the road, it was easy to see that the largest structure in town was the hundred-foot water tower.

Exercise 1: Words and Their Meanings

Look at the group of words on the left. Then circle the letter of the word on the right that has the same meaning.

- 1 a way to do something (a) landmark (b) structure (c) device (d) method
- 2 a large church (a) device (b) shaft (c) cathedral (d) freight
- 3 an important happening (a) landmark (b) rod (c) shaft (d) cable
- 4 goods moved from one place to another (a) structure (b) freight (c) cable (d) rod

Now look at the word on the left. Then circle the letter of the group of words on the right that has the same meaning.

- 5 cable (a) a vehicle with wheels (b) a steel rope with many strands
(c) a danger signal (d) a dirt path
- 6 structure (a) something that is not allowed (b) something that can be poured
(c) something that is built (d) something that is not real
- 7 shaft (a) a long, narrow part of an object (b) a cover for an opening
(c) a kitchen utensil or tool (d) a tall, narrow building
- 8 convey (a) to fail (b) to understand
(c) to fall (d) to carry

Exercise 2: Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the words in bold and replacing them with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 10.

- 1 A can opener is a very useful **tool that was invented for a particular use**.
- 2 The Statue of Liberty is a familiar New York **sight that can be seen from far away**.
- 3 Boris is looking for **a long, straight piece of wood or metal** so that he can hang the curtain.
- 4 The overhead **bundle of wires covered in plastic** carries electricity into the home.
- 5 My brother **let me know** the message from Mom that I should take our dog for a walk as soon as I got home.
- 6 The **open passage running straight up and down** is all that remains of this old gold mine.
- 7 During her time in Paris, Sybil visited the **large and important church** of Notre Dame.
- 8 Before being put on board, the **goods to be shipped** must be inspected.

Exercise 3: Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of the correct answer to each question below. Circle one letter only.

- 1 Which of the following is a device?
(a) a skyscraper (b) a hinge
(c) a tree (d) a snack
- 2 When would a landmark be helpful?
(a) as you are giving someone directions (b) before going to sleep
(c) after you have confessed to something (d) while taking a test
- 3 Which of the following can be used to make a rod?
(a) a length of chain (b) a tree branch
(c) a sponge (d) a seashell
- 4 Where could you find freight?
(a) on the moon (b) in a restaurant
(c) on a truck (d) in a vase
- 5 Which of the following is a structure?
(a) a waterfall (b) a rainbow
(c) a promise (d) a bridge
- 6 Which of the following has a shaft?
(a) a shoe (b) a mixing bowl
(c) an ax (d) a silver coin
- 7 How could you convey gratitude?
(a) write a thank-you note (b) go skiing
(c) go to sleep (d) take a test

Exercise 4: Word Study

Think about the words *big* and *huge*. They are synonyms, but *huge* has a slightly different meaning. It means "really big."

Look at each pair of synonyms below and decide which of them best fits the two sentences that follow. Circle the word that fits each sentence best.

- 1 A birthday card is meant to convey/carry the sender's good wishes.
- 2 A fifty-pound suitcase is too heavy for a small child to convey/carry.
- 3 A gallon does contain/hold eight pints, and not six as you thought.
- 4 This pitcher will contain/hold a quart of liquid.
- 5 The voters of each state elect/choose two senators to Congress.
- 6 Each person gets to elect/choose a partner.
- 7 Before handing over money to someone, be sure the person is reliable/trustworthy.
- 8 This old car is so reliable/trustworthy that it hardly ever breaks down.
- 9 From the top of the tower, we could survey/examine the countryside for miles around.
- 10 Be sure to survey/examine your change carefully before you leave the checkout counter.
- 11 Alyssa is the first to confess/admit that she is not perfect.
- 12 You should confess/admit what you've done wrong right away and get it over with.

Life's Ups and Downs

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow it.



Skyscrapers are a common sight in the world's big cities, but they have been with us for fewer than 125 years. The first one was built in Chicago in 1885 and had ten stories. Let's discover what led to this new kind of building, which changed the shape of cities.

There used to be only one way to make very tall buildings. Stones were cut to the correct shape and placed one on top of the other. This is the way the great **cathedrals** of Europe were built hundreds of years ago. The enormous weight of the walls was spread over a large area on the ground. The base of the walls had to be many feet thick. Stone was not cheap, and this **method** of building used a large amount of cut stone. That was one problem with tall buildings. Another was getting people from the ground to the higher levels. Most people were not willing to climb more than five flights of stairs.

The first problem was solved when steel came into wide use in the late 1800s. A set of steel girders fastened together supported the **structure**. Because the outside walls no longer carried the weight of the building, they could be made of glass or some other light material. There was no limit to how tall buildings could be, except for all those stairs!

It was left to Elisha Otis, a mechanic from Vermont, to solve the second problem. In the 1850s, he was working in a factory that made beds. Elevators run by steam power were coming into use in America at that time. Their main purpose was to move **freight** from one factory floor to another. The place where Otis worked had one. It was just a cage hanging from a rope and was raised or lowered inside a framework that kept it from swinging. If the rope broke, there was nothing to stop the cage from crashing to the ground.

Otis thought about this, and he came up with a **device** that would keep such accidents from happening. It was a kind of brake for the cage. As soon as the rope or wire **cable** broke and the cage began to fall, a spring caused two steel **rods** to shoot out of the sides of the cage. These fitted into slots running the length of the elevator **shaft**, keeping the cage from falling any farther. Otis's invention worked well. So in 1854, he took it to New York to a special business fair for new inventions. He

climbed into the elevator cage, which was then raised as high as it would go. After a signal was given, a helper on the ground cut the rope holding up the cage. Instead of falling, the cage remained in place. The crowd gasped and then cheered. Otis began taking orders for the elevator company he started, which still carries his name.

Otis's invention could be used to **convey** people safely to the upper floors of very tall buildings. This helped make the skyscraper possible. Elevators improved even more when they began running on electricity instead of steam. Electric elevators were faster, smoother, quieter, and less likely to break down. The ten-story Chicago building, which was demolished in 1931, was followed by Manhattan's first skyscraper, the twenty-two-story Flatiron Building. It is still a New York **landmark**. The 110-story Sears Tower in Chicago has over one hundred elevators. The fastest ones make the quarter-mile ride to the top in one minute with perfect safety.

Answer each of the following questions with a sentence. If a question does not have a vocabulary word, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. All ten words from Word List 10 will then appear either in a question or in an answer.

- ① Give the names of some **devices** that enable people to reach the upper stories of buildings.

- ② What kind of tall building was built before skyscrapers were invented?

- ③ What **method** was used to support the weight of tall buildings made of stone?

- ④ Why is 1854 a **landmark** in the history of tall buildings?

- ⑤ Which **structure** was New York City's first skyscraper?

- ⑥ Why were there no **cables** for electricity in the early elevators?

- ⑦ What keeps an elevator from moving side to side?

- ⑧ Why would the **rods** that Otis used have to be very strong?

- ⑨ What are some different uses of elevators?

- ⑩ If you were riding an elevator to the top of the Sears Tower in Chicago, how long would it take you?
