

★ Lesson 9 ★

Word List

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

attitude *n.* A way of thinking or feeling about certain things. Complaining and grouchy before lunch, Tina had quite a different attitude after she had eaten something.

confess *v.* To say or admit that one has done something wrong. When my older sister accused me of getting spots on her best sweater, I confessed that I had, but by accident.



defend *v.* 1. To keep from being attacked; to protect. The mother goose defended her young by beating her wings up and down as she ran toward us hissing. 2. To speak for; to argue in favor of. My cousin defended me when my brother complained that I never helped with the dishes.

gradual *adj.* Happening slowly; taking place little by little. The rising sea level is caused by the gradual melting of the ice cap in Antarctica.

hint *n.* Information given to help someone to answer a question; a clue. Mr. Wang said he would not give us any hints until we had tried to solve the puzzle.

v. To suggest something without saying directly what one means. Rosa had hinted so often about receiving a puppy for her birthday that her parents felt they could not disappoint her.

Individual *n.* A single person, apart from others in a group. When the teacher asked everyone in class who knew the answer to stand, only one individual stood.

adj. Meant for just one. At the kennel, all the animals were kept in individual cages.



malice *n.* The wish to hurt others on purpose. Although Camilla felt no malice toward whoever stole her wallet, she was going to be angry if it was not returned.

malicious *adj.* Done with a wish to harm or cause pain. Everyone agreed that spray painting words on the side of the new store was a malicious thing to do.

misery *n.* A feeling of great unhappiness. The flash flood brought misery to hundreds of families whose homes were now standing in four feet of water.

miserable *adj.* 1. Very unhappy or unpleasant. The mosquitoes were so thick in the woods that I was miserable for the entire hike.

2. Very bad; of poor quality. We discovered what a miserable job the roofer had done when we found a leak in the attic after the next rainstorm.



solution *n.* 1. The answer to a problem or puzzle. After filling in all but a few of the blanks in the crossword puzzle, Rico turned to the back of the newspaper for the solution.
2. A mixture formed when a liquid and some other stuff are mixed together. Brine, which is a solution of salt and water, keeps pickles crisp and fresh.

survey *v.* To look over; to examine. From a helicopter, the governor surveyed the damage caused by the tornado.
n. A study designed to gather information about a subject. Our class made a survey of all students to find out which lunches were most popular.

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 the wish to hurt someone (a) attitude (b) hint (c) individual (d) malice
- 2 taking place slowly (a) malicious (b) miserable
(c) gradual (d) individual
- 3 a way of thinking about something (a) misery (b) solution (c) survey (d) attitude
- 4 an indirect suggestion (a) solution (b) hint (c) survey (d) misery

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 confess (a) to cause fear or alarm (b) to care for
(c) to join together (d) to admit you have done wrong
- 6 solution (a) the answer to a problem (b) a liquid as it freezes
(c) a slow process (d) a mystery
- 7 defend (a) to bring to an end (b) to search for
(c) to keep from harm (d) to place limits on
- 8 survey (a) to warn of danger (b) to take a look at
(c) to give shelter to (d) to guess at an answer

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 9.

- 1 At their first practice, the soccer players decided which **person from all the others** on the team would keep track of the balls.
- 2 I told my friend Nat that I could not **speak in favor of** what he did because it was wrong.
- 3 The **study designed to get information on the subject** shows that over half of the students speak more than one language.
- 4 Tamara's **very unpleasant** day began when she overslept and then arrived late to school.
- 5 This **mixture made up** of sugar and water attracts many hummingbirds to our feeder.
- 6 Mark **suggested without saying so directly** that he would like a second piece of pie.
- 7 The melting of the ice on the pond was **taking place very slowly**, so it was more than a week before it was gone.
- 8 Although my uncle did not say his words with **the wish to cause pain**, my father still felt hurt and a little angry.

Exercise 3: Applying Meanings

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

- 1 To which of the following might a person confess?
(a) winning a prize
(b) memorizing a poem
(c) making a new friend
(d) hurting someone on purpose
- 2 How might you defend yourself?
(a) by speaking up
(b) by eating lunch
(c) by laughing
(d) by going to sleep

- 3 Where will you find individual places set up?
(a) on a football field (b) at a track for running races
(c) in an art class (d) on a basketball court
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- 4 Which of the following is a sign of misery?
(a) weeping (b) laughing
(c) smiling (d) sneezing
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- 5 Which of the following might be a hint?
(a) Don't do that again! (b) We serve five different flavors of ice cream.
(c) Where is my toothbrush? (d) The word has five letters and begins with S.
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- 6 What information might a survey show?
(a) a recipe for fried rice (b) the favorite recreation of kids age six to ten
(c) the distance to the moon (d) the normal body temperature in humans
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- 7 To which of the following might there be a solution?
(a) a joke (b) a schedule
(c) an award (d) a riddle

Exercise 4: Word Study

Two words that have the same or similar meaning are called **synonyms**. *Big* and *large* are synonyms. You can say that someone lives in a big house or a large house, and the meaning is the same.

Look at each group of three words below. Decide which two of the words are synonyms and cross out the remaining word.

- 1 confess act admit
- 2 defend crumple protect
- 3 hint suggest digest

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|---|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 4 | survey | enable | examine |
| 5 | memorize | contain | hold |
| 6 | reliable | average | trustworthy |
| 7 | elect | choose | amaze |
| 8 | disappear | vanish | flutter |

Bully Solutions

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



Do you get picked on at school? Lots of kids do. Teasing is normal and usually harmless. But when teasing crosses the line and changes to bullying, it is a different matter. It becomes a serious problem. Fortunately, there are ways of dealing with it. Let's discover some of the things that you and your school can do to keep bullying in check.

Teasing becomes bullying when it is done with **malice**. The weapons used can be words or fists. Having someone make fun of you can hurt just as much as being hit. Unfortunately, bullying is more common than you might think. A **survey** of 6,000 students in grades four to six was taken in the late 1990s. A quarter of them said they were often picked on by bullies. One in five admitted to being bullies themselves.

Not so long ago, teachers and parents believed they should not stop bullying when they saw it happening. Children who complained about attacks were told, "You have to learn to stand up for yourself," or "If a bully hits you, hit back." This was bad advice. Bullies want you to stand up for yourself. Then they can knock you down. They want you to hit back. Then they can hit you again, even harder.

Let's look at what each **individual** can do. It is important to learn the right **attitude** to have when people try to bully you. If they call you a coward, try agreeing with them. Ask them for any useful **hints** on overcoming fear that they might like to share with you. Try to make a joke out of it. By doing this, you show the bullies that you are not afraid. When you do that, you take all the fun out of bullying. Studies show that bullies **gradually** lose interest after a week or two when the person picked

on does not play along. Here is another suggestion. Have a buddy, someone you are able to spend a lot of time with. That way you can **defend** each other if the need arises. Remember that bullies like to pick on people who are alone or who seem to have no friends.

Schools have come up with different **solutions** to the bullying problem. One started a Bully-Buster Box. Students could drop notes into it about any bullying they saw. They did not have to give their own names if they chose not to. The bullies became afraid that their actions would be reported. Then they were not quite so quick to pick on someone. Another school had students meet once a week, sitting in a circle. They talked face to face about any acts of bullying they had seen or caused. At these meetings, the bullies themselves were sometimes the first to **confess**. They often felt guilty and unhappy.

Children who like to hurt other children often grow up to be adults who continue to like hurting others. It is a habit that is hard to break, and it can get them in a great deal of trouble later in life. That is why bullies need help just as much as those they are trying to hurt. The bully is a **miserable** human being, someone to be pitied and definitely not to be copied.

If you should suffer at the hands of a bully, try to find a way to reach out to him or her. It is not easy to turn a bully into a buddy, but it can be done. With help from others, you may be able to find a way.

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 9 will then appear either in a question or in an answer.

① What is it about bullies that most needs to be changed?

② When does harmless teasing cross the line and become **malicious**?

③ Why is any change in a bully's actions likely to be **gradual**?

④ Why do you think the passage gives several ways to deal with the problem of bullying in schools?

⑤ Why is raising your fists not a good way to **defend** yourself against bullies?

⑥ Where did some of the information in the passage on bullying come from?

⑦ What's a good reply when a bully calls you a coward?

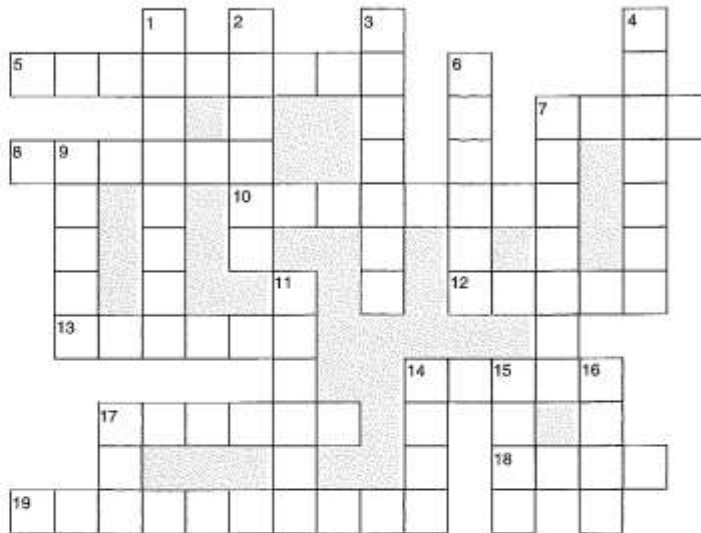
⑧ Do bullies feel good about what they do? Explain your answer.

⑨ Is it the job of the school or of each **individual** to deal with bullying?

⑩ What are two of the helpful **hints** contained in the passage?

Crossword Puzzle

Each of the sentence clues at the bottom of the page has a word missing. Match the number of the sentence with the same number in a puzzle box. Then write the missing word in the correct boxes, going ACROSS or DOWN. All of the missing words are from Lessons 8 and 9, except 7, 12, 13, and 18 ACROSS and 17 DOWN.



ACROSS

5. To make this frozen juice, we need a _____ that holds two quarts.
7. The table was decorated with a candy _____ at each person's place.
8. The marigolds will _____ in a sunny area.
10. Your feet will feel better if you soak them in this _____ of baking soda and water.
12. The opposite of *friend* is _____.
13. Nine, ten, eleven, _____.
14. The daily tide keeps a salt-water _____ alive.
17. From the _____, we learned that most students like the school lunches.
18. The opposite of *short* is _____.
19. We cut the lasagna in a way that made ten _____ servings.

DOWN

1. My eager _____ toward sleeping under the stars changed when it started raining.
2. The nurse suggests you eat soda crackers because they are easy to _____.
3. The slope here is so _____ you hardly notice it.
4. Shopping for clothes with my cousin always takes a long time because he is so _____.
6. Breaking the new bicycle on purpose was an act of _____.
7. I cannot _____ because I did nothing wrong.
9. Her _____ of humming all the time is very annoying.
11. My decision to quit the team is the right one and I will _____ it.
14. We pick up our _____ at the post office.
15. Can I _____ on you to keep a secret until Dad's birthday?
16. With a smile, she put out her _____ for me to shake.
17. The opposite of happy is _____.