

Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selections. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

disgrace [dis GRAYS] *n.* loss of honor or respect

The mayor was found to be corrupt, and resigned in disgrace.

fortune [FOR chun] *n.* a person's standing in life determined by money or possessions

His fortune improved after he won cash and prizes on the game show.

contented [kon TENT id] *adj.* satisfied; desiring nothing more

After eating his favorite lunch, the contented child fell asleep.

scorn [SKORN] *v.* to reject

Teachers scorn disruptive behavior in class.

prophecies [PRAHF i seez] *n.* predictions

The palm-reader's prophecies hardly ever came true.

divining [di VYN ing] *v.* to know by intuition or reflection

The Hollywood insider was famous for divining each year's Oscar winners.

tempests [TEM pists] *n.* violent wind and rain storms

Violent tempests wrecked many ships that tried to sail around the Cape of Good Hope.

despising [dis PYZ ing] *v.* to dislike intensely

Despising the bitter taste, the boy refused to eat his spinach.

Word List B

outcast [OWT kast] *n.* a person excluded from a society or system

Eating smelly sardine-sandwiches made the student an outcast from the lunch table.

possessed [po ZEST] *v.* to have had or owned

The fashion model possessed lots of sample shoes.

arising [uh RYZ ing] *v.* the process of getting up

The bus driver's habits included arising early.

antique [AN teek] *adj.* made in an earlier period

The antique ring was worn by her grandmother and by her great-grandmother.

sickle [SIK l] *n.* a tool with a circular blade, used for cutting grass

The Farm Cafe used the old, rusty sickle as a wall decoration.

alters [AWL terz] *v.* changes; makes different

A good tailor alters a suit to make it fit better.

rare [RAYR] *adj.* infrequently occurring; uncommon

The botanical garden has many rare plants.

treads [TREDZ] *v.* to walk on, over, or along

A person who treads across his newly seeded lawn should expect to see tracks.

Sonnet 29, Sonnet 106, Sonnet 116, and Sonnet 130 by William Shakespeare

Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises

Exercise A Fill in each blank below with the appropriate word from Word List A.

If you are considering a career as a television or movie actor, do not expect a glamorous life. First, you will need a professional agent who will help your career by arranging auditions, giving advice, and [1] _____ mysterious knowledge about the industry. Using inside knowledge and experience, good agents often can make accurate [2] _____ about who will be successful. But even a great agent can't guarantee you a [3] _____. Most actors take extra jobs as waiters, bartenders, or caterers to pay the bills. Actors usually do not [4] _____ their poverty, they just try to hold their heads high through the [5] _____ that unemployment can bring. Most actors know their chances are slim, and enter the profession [6] _____ the fact that they will never be wealthy. They deal with disappointment and the [7] raging, emotional _____ that rejection creates, feeling they will never live [8] _____ lives if they ignore their passion for the theater.

Exercise B For each item, use a word from Word List B to replace the underlined word or group of words without changing its meaning. Write your answers as complete sentences.

Example: The old dresser was dusty and falling apart.

The antique dresser was dusty and falling apart.

1. He felt like an outsider when everyone in the room started speaking Spanish.

2. Everyone said Clarice owned a unique shell collection.

3. Getting up before sunrise each morning, Dan was always the first one at the gym.

4. The field hand cut grass with a scythe.

5. Even though the vase was uncommon, we felt it was too expensive.

6. Usually, a sprained ankle changes the way you walk.

7. The baby's mother walks quietly past his room so she won't wake him.
