

Introducing the Words

Read the following Russian folktale about some clever forest animals. Notice how the highlighted words are used. These are the words you will be learning in this unit.



Why Bear Sleeps So Much

(Russian Folktale)

Long ago, when the world was as fresh and new as a daffodil in springtime, the animals faced a serious problem. Troublesome Bear was ruining everything in their forest.

The songbirds were all terrified whenever Bear passed through the woods in his usual clumsy way. He would blunder into branches, smashing the birds' fragile nests and eggs. Bear also crushed the hives of the bees and stole

their honey, so the bees had a continuous argument with him. Bear squashed the tunnel-like homes of the gophers and the rabbits with his big feet, and in general caused so many disturbances that the animals couldn't relax. As angry as they were, however, the animals didn't really want to get into a scuffle with Bear. He was much too big and strong!



Desperate, the animals called a meeting to decide on a course of action. "Why don't we just ask Bear to be more considerate?" suggested Deer timidly.

Squirrel was quick to **reject** Deer's idea. "That won't work," Squirrel insisted, "because Bear never listens to anyone. I think he just enjoys walking all over us!"

"Throw Bear in jail," Rat shouted. "Force him to live a **solitary** life in a jail cell and he won't be able to injure and torment us ever again."

The animals nodded in approval at this idea until Mouse pointed out an obvious problem. "We don't have a jail," Mouse squeaked, "and if we did, someone would have to feed Bear in his cell." The very thought of feeding Bear made all the animals shake in fear.

Other animals offered more ideas. Skunk suggested that Porcupine **distribute** some of his extra sharp quills in Bear's bed. Porcupine suggested that Skunk send some smelly spray into Bear's den. Neither animal was brave enough to try the other's plan, however, and the ideas probably wouldn't have worked anyway. Indeed, it looked as if there were no solution to the problem, and the animals were about to **cancel** the rest of their meeting.

Fortunately, at that moment, Eagle flew in like a bolt of lightning. The animals cheered because Eagle was a **veteran** problem solver. Whenever there was trouble in the forest, Eagle found a way to put an end to it. This time, Eagle clutched a **document** in his sharp claws. "As we all know," Eagle thundered, "Bear can't hurt anyone or destroy anything when he's asleep. This statement," he said, waving the

document, "requires Bear to sleep from October to April every year. I hope you will all sign it!"

What a great idea! The animals read the document and added their names to it. True, it didn't get rid of Bear permanently, but it gave them **temporary** relief. At the very least, the animals could look forward to peace and quiet for six months of every year.

The **myth** doesn't say how the animals gave their signed document to Bear or what his reaction was to it. Who knows? Maybe he liked the animals' suggestion, for one thing is certain: Bear has been sleeping away half the year ever since!



Definitions

Mr. Gillies - Reading

remember

A **noun** (n.) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (v.) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (adj.) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 6–7. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

1. blunder (blun' dər)

(v.) to make a foolish or careless mistake; to move clumsily and carelessly

I saw the hiker _____ through the woods.

(n.) a serious or thoughtless mistake

I was terribly embarrassed by my _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to err, foul up, bungle, goof; (n.) an error, blooper

ANTONYMS: (v.) to triumph, succeed; (n.) a success, hit

2. cancel (kan' səl)

(v.) to call off or do away with; to cross out with lines or other marks to show that something cannot be used again

Maybe the principal will _____ classes if it continues to snow.

SYNONYMS: to stop, discontinue, drop, repeal, revoke

ANTONYMS: to renew, continue, extend, maintain

3. continuous (kən tin' yū əs)

(adj.) going on without a stop or break

_____ TV coverage began shortly after news of the disaster broke.

SYNONYMS: ongoing, endless, ceaseless, unbroken, constant, perpetual

ANTONYMS: broken, discontinuous, interrupted

4. distribute (di stri' byüt)

(v.) to give out in shares; to scatter or spread

Our class will _____ leaflets announcing the school's fund-raising drive.

SYNONYMS: to divide, share, deal, issue

ANTONYMS: to gather, collect, hold

5. document (dä' kyə ment)

(n.) a written or printed record that gives information or proof

The librarian found the old _____ inside a book.

(v.) to give written or printed proof; to support with evidence

Writers often _____ their sources.

SYNONYMS: (n.) a certificate, deed; (v.) to prove, establish



6. fragile
(fra' jəl)

(adj.) easily broken or damaged, requiring special handling or care

The _____ antique was damaged during transit.

SYNONYMS: weak, frail, breakable, delicate, brittle, flimsy

ANTONYMS: sturdy, hardy, strong, rugged, tough

7. myth
(mith)

(n.) an old story that explains why something is or how it came to be; something imaginary

The play is based on an ancient Greek _____.

SYNONYMS: a legend, fable, tale, fantasy, fairy tale

ANTONYM: a fact

8. reject
(ri jekt')

(v.) to refuse to accept, agree to, believe, or use

Why did you _____ the offer?

SYNONYMS: to deny, discard, junk, scrap, decline, dismiss

ANTONYMS: to take, accept, receive, welcome

9. scuffle
(sku' fəl)

(v.) to fight or struggle closely with

A witness saw the two men _____ in an alley.

(n.) fight or struggle

Police officers were called in to break up the _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to tussle, roughhouse, battle, brawl; (n.) a fistfight, clash

10. solitary
(sə' lə ter ē)

(adj.) living or being alone; being the only one

The old man led a _____ life.

SYNONYMS: single, sole, lone

ANTONYMS: sociable; several, many, numerous

11. temporary
(tem' pə rer ē)

(adj.) lasting or used for a limited time

A blow to the head can cause a _____ loss of memory.

SYNONYMS: short-term, passing, brief, momentary

ANTONYMS: lasting, long-lived, permanent

12. veteran
(ve' tər ən)

(n.) a former member of the armed forces; an experienced person

The army _____ listened attentively.

(adj.) having much experience in some job or field

The actress will play a _____ reporter.

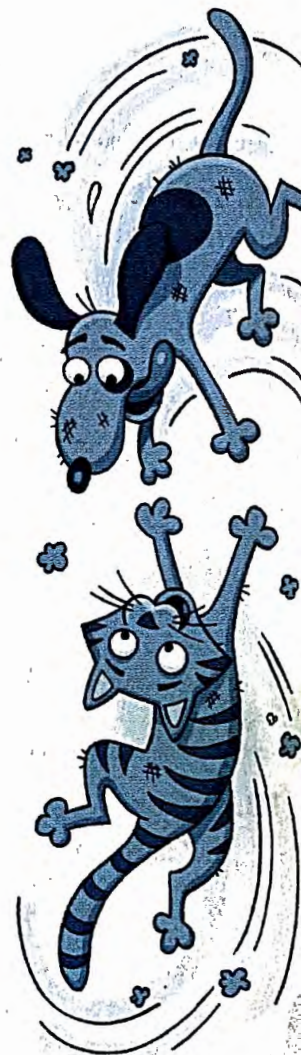
SYNONYMS: (adj.) expert, professional, experienced, skilled, accomplished

ANTONYMS: (n.) a beginner, newcomer, novice, rookie



For each item below, choose the word whose meaning is suggested by the clue given. Then write the word in the space provided.

1. A roommate you have for only a month is a _____ one.
a. continuous b. temporary c. fragile d. solitary
2. A black eye might be the result of a _____.
a. scuffle b. myth c. veteran d. blunder
3. To _____ your age you might show a birth certificate or a driver's license.
a. distribute b. document c. cancel d. reject
4. A person who lives alone in the woods might be described as _____.
a. continuous b. solitary c. temporary d. fragile
5. The idea that you will get warts from touching a frog is a _____.
a. blunder b. document c. scuffle d. myth
6. If I make a serious mistake, I commit a _____.
a. scuffle b. document c. myth d. blunder
7. A box containing an item that can be broken easily might be stamped "_____.
a. solitary b. temporary c. fragile d. continuous
8. A charity might _____ food to the homeless.
a. reject b. cancel c. scuffle d. distribute
9. Something that goes on without stopping is _____.
a. continuous b. temporary c. solitary d. fragile
10. To refuse a gift is to _____ it.
a. cancel b. scuffle c. distribute d. reject
11. A person who has a lot of experience at something is a _____.
a. blunder b. myth c. document d. veteran
12. If I call off a party, I _____ it.
a. scuffle b. blunder c. cancel d. reject



The dog and cat got into a scuffle.

Synonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly the **same** in meaning as the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. a **constant** flow of traffic
a. fragile b. temporary c. continuous d. veteran _____
2. tried to hide the **blooper**
a. document b. myth c. blunder d. scuffle _____
3. not a **single** cent
a. temporary b. fragile c. solitary d. veteran _____
4. witnessed the **fight**
a. myth b. blunder c. document d. scuffle _____
5. very important **records**
a. veterans b. documents c. myths d. blunders _____
6. a collection of ancient **stories**
a. documents b. myths c. veterans d. blunders _____

Antonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. **renew** my subscription
a. cancel b. blunder c. scuffle d. distribute _____
2. **accept** the marriage proposal
a. scuffle b. reject c. blunder d. distribute _____
3. a **novice** mountain climber
a. temporary b. fragile c. continuous d. veteran _____
4. **collect** the homework sheets
a. reject b. document c. distribute d. cancel _____
5. a **sturdy** device
a. temporary b. solitary c. veteran d. fragile _____
6. a **permanent** filling
a. veteran b. continuous c. temporary d. solitary _____

Completing the Sentences - Reading

Choose the word from the box that best completes each item below. Then write the word in the space provided. (You may have to change the word's ending.)

blunder - cancel - continuous -
distribute - document - fragile -
myth - reject - scuffle -
solitary - temporary - veteran

A Visit to a Museum

- Our class visited the museum on the last day of a(n) _____ exhibit of ancient Greek vases.
- Some of the vases were more than 2,000 years old. Because they were so old and _____, we weren't allowed to touch them.
- Security guards kept visitors a few feet from the display cases, so there was no chance that someone could _____ into them.
- The guide told us that the pictures painted on some of the vases were not of real people but characters from legends and _____.
- One picture showed a(n) _____ warrior fighting off a band of attackers.

A Famous Declaration

- In refusing to accept English rule, the writers of the Declaration of Independence _____ the claim that Parliament had sovereignty, or lawful power, over the American colonies.
- Those who supported the cause of American independence quickly printed and _____ copies of the Declaration throughout the thirteen colonies.
- The original _____, one of America's historic treasures, is now on view at the National Archives building in Washington, D.C.

On the Soccer Field

- Two days of _____ rain had turned the soccer field into a sea of mud and threatened to spoil the opening game of the season.
- Before the game began, a _____ broke out in the stands when a few home-team fans came to blows with those rooting for the visiting team.
- The referee threatened to _____ the game and send all of the fans home if order was not restored.
- Only when a handful of popular _____ from both teams asked the fans to behave themselves did they finally settle down and let the game get under way.

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Word Associations

Circle the letter next to the word or expression that best completes the sentence or answers the question. Pay special attention to the word in **boldface**.

1. A person might emerge from a **scuffle**

- a. with spaghetti and meatballs.
- b. with scrapes and bruises.
- c. with dollars and cents.
- d. with hugs and kisses.

2. Someone who has **blundered** would

- a. feel embarrassed.
- b. be confident.
- c. feel proud.
- d. be rewarded.

3. A **solitary** tree would probably

- a. have needles.
- b. be chopped down.
- c. change color in the fall.
- d. stand alone.

4. A **continuous** loud noise might

- a. be hard to hear.
- b. stop and start.
- c. be soothing.
- d. be annoying.

5. Which of the following is a **document**?

- a. an old friend
- b. a telephone call
- c. a marriage license
- d. a good meal

6. If I **cancel** my piano lesson,

- a. I don't go.
- b. I play very well.
- c. I repair the piano.
- d. I arrive late.

7. A **temporary** problem is one that

- a. lasts a long time.
- b. goes away.
- c. no one can solve.
- d. anyone can solve.

8. In a **veteran's** closet you might find

- a. a skateboard.
- b. a party dress.
- c. a box of marbles.
- d. an old uniform.

9. When a teacher **distributes** a test

- a. he or she grades it.
- b. he or she loses it.
- c. he or she passes it out.
- d. he or she collects it.

10. Which of the following is usually **fragile**?

- a. a hammer
- b. a pair of scissors
- c. a lightbulb
- d. a padlock

11. Someone who has been **rejected**

- a. might feel hurt.
- b. might feel happy.
- c. might get lost.
- d. might get a cold.

12. Which is a creature of **myth**?

- a. a rabbit
- b. a giraffe
- c. a duck
- d. a dragon

Introducing the Words

Read the following historical nonfiction passage about a hero of the American Revolution. Notice how the highlighted words are used. These are the words you will be learning in this unit.

Sybil Ludington's Ride

(Historical Nonfiction)

Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of . . . Sybil Ludington? Thanks to a very famous poem, almost everyone knows about Paul Revere. The name of Sybil Ludington, however, is probably unfamiliar. Yet like Revere, Ludington made an **impressive** midnight ride to warn American patriots—those fighting for independence—of an approaching British army.

In April 1777, two years after Revere's famous ride, British soldiers made an **assault** on Danbury, Connecticut, not too far from where sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington lived. The Continental Army, as the army of the Americans was called, stored supplies in Danbury, and the British **strategy** was to burn them. Once the supplies were destroyed, the British

began to burn the homes and workplaces of **numerous** patriots in Danbury. The **villain** in this raid was the British general William Tryon, who lost control of his soldiers and allowed them to hurt innocent citizens.

A messenger quickly rode out from Danbury with news of the attack. His destination was the mill of Colonel Henry Ludington in nearby New York State. Only Ludington, the leader of about four hundred patriot volunteers, could fight off the British. After hearing the news, Ludington quickly agreed to help, but his men were spread out for miles. Who would alert them?



This postage stamp honors Sybil Ludington's contribution to the cause of American freedom.



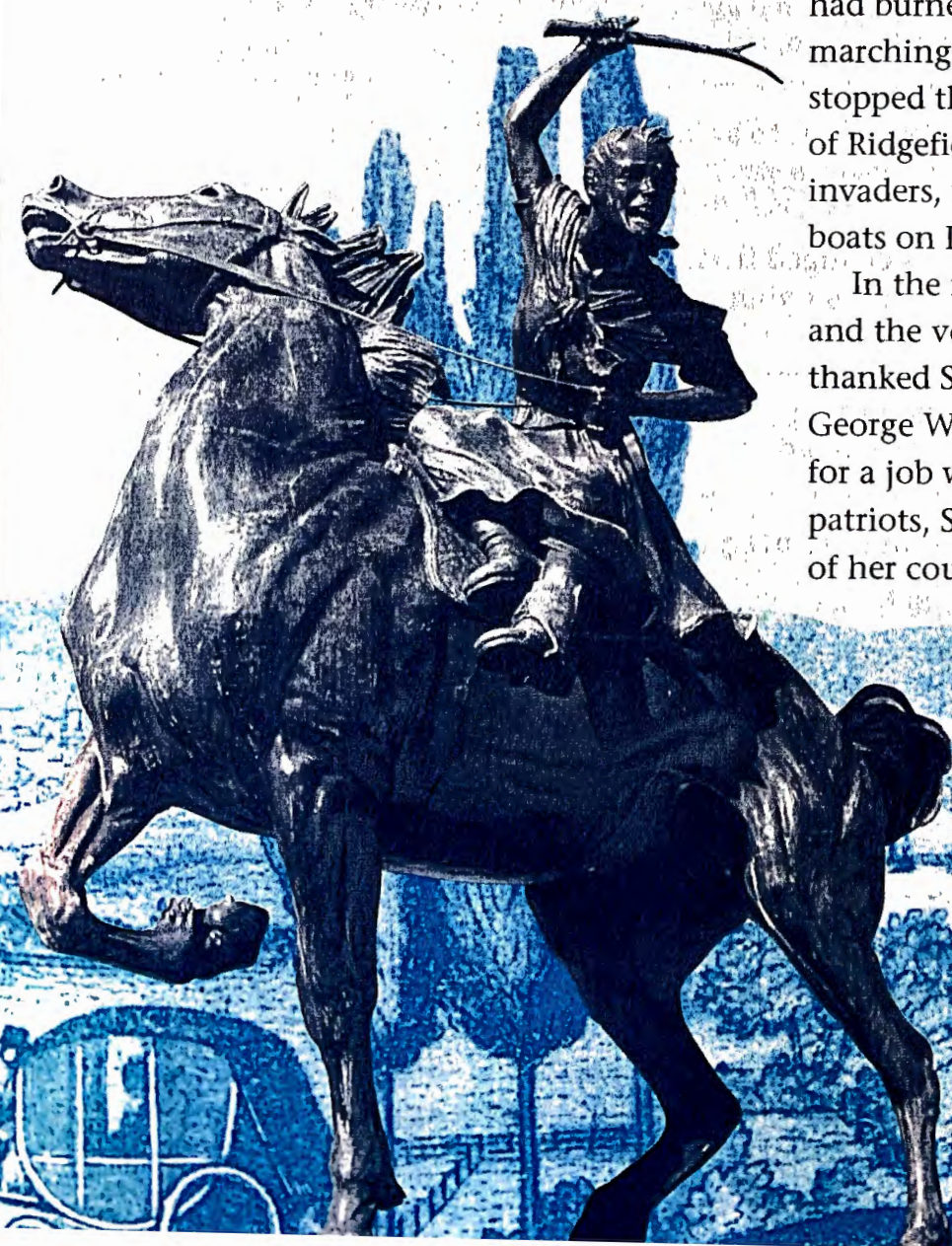
The messenger from Danbury did not know his way around the area. Ludington himself had to stay at home to assemble his soldiers as they arrived. Perhaps that's when Ludington's daughter Sybil volunteered to make the ride, or perhaps Ludington asked her to go. Either way, it was a **shrewd** choice. No one could **dispute** that Sybil was a skillful rider, and she knew the local roads well. Also, as the oldest of twelve children, she was used to responsibility. Sending Sybil was a decision that would be easy to **justify**.

Sybil quickly mounted her horse and rode off on her mission. It was after 9:00 P.M. and raining when she left, and in the darkness, the

rough unmarked trails could be **misleading**. Sybil never lost her way though, galloping from farm to village and calling out the news. In all, she rode forty miles that night, twice as far as Paul Revere. Along the way, she had to avoid British spies and soldiers. According to one account, she even used a type of gun called a musket to scare away some outlaws who preyed on travelers at night.

Sybil had a **productive** ride that night! When she arrived back home at dawn, more than four hundred patriot volunteers were gathering at her father's mill. Under Colonel Ludington, they were quickly **converted** into a regular fighting force. By now, the British had burned and **abandoned** Danbury and were marching inland. Ludington's forces, however, stopped the British advance. Later, at the Battle of Ridgefield, the patriots fought the British invaders, who eventually retreated to their boats on Long Island Sound.

In the months that followed, Sybil's father and the volunteers he led often praised and thanked Sybil for her heroic ride. Even General George Washington sent his congratulations for a job well done. Like so many other patriots, Sybil Ludington had come to the aid of her country.



Definitions

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 16-17. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

A **noun** (n.) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (v.) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (adj.) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

- 1. abandon** (v.) to give up on completely; to leave with no intention of returning
(ə ban' dən) The captain gave the order to _____ ship.

SYNONYMS: to desert, forsake, cease, surrender
ANTONYMS: to continue, stay, remain, occupy

- 2. assault** (n.) a violent attack
(ə sôlt') The victim was injured in the _____.

(v.) to attack violently or suddenly

Dad dared us to _____ his snow fort.

SYNONYMS: (n.) an invasion, raid, mugging, beating; (v.) to besiege, storm
ANTONYMS: (v.) to protect, defend, resist

- 3. convert** (v.) to change from one form to another
(v., kən vûrt';
n., kân' vûrt) A drop in temperature to 32° F will _____ water to ice.

(n.) a person who has changed from one opinion, belief, or religion to another

The new _____ was introduced to the congregation.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to transform, turn, alter, switch
ANTONYMS: (v.) to maintain, conserve, remain

- 4. dispute** (v.) to argue, debate, quarrel over; to question or doubt the truth of
(di spyût') The committee did not _____ the merits of the bill.

(n.) an argument, quarrel, debate

Why not try to resolve the _____ peacefully?

SYNONYMS: (v.) to differ, disagree; contest, challenge; (n.) a conflict, disagreement, controversy

ANTONYMS: (v.) to agree, harmonize; (n.) an agreement, understanding, accord

- 5. impressive** (adj.) having a strong effect, commanding attention
(im pre' siv) The skater gave an _____ performance.

SYNONYMS: memorable, striking, stirring, thrilling, awesome, splendid
ANTONYMS: inferior, mediocre



**6. justify**

(jus' tə fī)

(v.) to show to be fair or right; to give good reasons for

Be prepared to _____ your behavior.

SYNONYMS: to defend, explain, support, excuse

ANTONYMS: to convict, blame, accuse

7. misleading

(mis lē' dīŋ)

(adj.) tending to give a wrong idea, often on purpose

The lawyer called the statement _____.

SYNONYMS: deceptive, false, tricky, inaccurate

ANTONYMS: direct, honest, true, accurate, straightforward

8. numerous

(nūm' rəs)

(adj.) many or very many

_____ aunts and uncles came to our family reunion.

SYNONYMS: several, plenty, plentiful

ANTONYM: few

9. productive

(prə duk' tiv)

(adj.) making or capable of making large amounts of; giving good results

With care, it may become a _____ orchard.

SYNONYMS: energetic, effective, fruitful, efficient, worthwhile

ANTONYMS: unproductive, idle, useless, inactive

10. shrewd

(shrüd)

(adj.) showing clever judgment and practical understanding

My aunt is a _____ businesswoman.

SYNONYMS: artful, wise, sharp, crafty, wily, cunning

ANTONYMS: slow, stupid, dull-witted

11. strategy

(stra' tə jē)

(n.) a carefully made plan or plot; a plan of military operations

Our teacher suggested a test-taking _____.

SYNONYMS: an approach, design, method, scheme

12. villain

(vi' lən)

(n.) an evil or wicked person or character, especially in a story or play

*In old movies, the _____
often wore a black hat.*

SYNONYMS: a scoundrel, rascal, outlaw, criminal

ANTONYMS: a hero, heroine, champion





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Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from the box that best completes each item below. Then write the word in the space provided. (You may have to change the word's ending.)

abandon	assault	convert
dispute	impressive	justify
misleading	numerous	productive
shrewd	strategy	villain

Greeks and Trojans at War

- Both the Greek poet Homer and the Roman poet Virgil wrote of the ten-year siege of Troy by the Greeks and of the heroes and _____ who did battle there.
- One of the most famous stories describes the sly _____ that the Greeks thought up to defeat the Trojans.
- The Greeks had tried not once but on _____ occasions to force the Trojans to surrender the fortress city.
- Several times the Greeks had _____ the walls of Troy, but all of the attacks had failed.
- Finally, the Greeks came up with a _____ plan: They left at the gates of Troy a huge wooden horse as a pretended peace offering. The Trojans brought the horse inside the city walls.
- But the wooden horse was a _____ gift, for hidden inside its huge body was a small army of Greeks, who at nightfall climbed from the horse and opened the gates to the city.

A False Science

- Alchemists were people who believed that it was possible to _____ ordinary metals, such as iron and lead, into gold. The best-known alchemists are those who practiced in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- They staged very _____ experiments to try to convince others that they could do as they promised.
- Some people believed that the possibility of great wealth _____ even the most far-fetched experiments.
- Scientists today would _____ the ideas of the alchemists, but centuries ago many people believed that their ideas were sound. In fact, it was not until the 1800s that scientists proved that base metals cannot be turned into gold.
- Failure upon failure finally persuaded most alchemists to _____ their dreams of wealth and glory.
- In a way, the work that the alchemists did was _____ because it sometimes led to advances in chemistry. During the Middle Ages, for example, alchemists were responsible for the discovery of mineral acids.

Word Associations

Circle the letter next to the word or expression that best completes the sentence or answers the question. Pay special attention to the word in **boldface**.

1. A person who has been **abandoned**
 - a. would feel powerful.
 - b. would feel bold.
 - c. would feel happy.
 - d. would feel lonely.
2. If you **convert** a room, you
 - a. leave it the same.
 - b. hide in it.
 - c. change it.
 - d. take a picture of it.
3. You might expect a **villain** to
 - a. volunteer in a soup kitchen.
 - b. receive an award.
 - c. play the cello.
 - d. kidnap someone.
4. A really **impressive** baseball team would
 - a. use extra players.
 - b. lack the proper equipment.
 - c. lead the league.
 - d. play only night games.
5. Which might stop an **assault**?
 - a. a good night's sleep
 - b. a police officer
 - c. a salt shaker
 - d. a rocking horse
6. A winning **strategy** involves
 - a. careful planning.
 - b. lots of money.
 - c. powerful friends.
 - d. reckless bravery.
7. On a **productive** day you would
 - a. play outside.
 - b. get a lot done.
 - c. stay inside.
 - d. get nothing done.
8. If your friends are **numerous**,
 - a. you have very few of them.
 - b. they live nearby.
 - c. you have a lot of them.
 - d. they live far away.
9. **Misleading** information should usually be
 - a. ignored.
 - b. memorized.
 - c. published.
 - d. relied upon.
10. When I **justify** my claims,
 - a. I take them back.
 - b. I lose them.
 - c. I defend them.
 - d. I get sued.
11. A **shrewd** person would probably
 - a. get lost.
 - b. get a good deal.
 - c. get a warm welcome.
 - d. get fooled.
12. The best way to end a **dispute** is to
 - a. shake hands.
 - b. skip lunch.
 - c. argue.
 - d. wrestle.