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Enthusiasm and Indifference

<u>WORD LIST</u>

allure fanatic avid indifferent

devotion jubilant

effusive reticent exhilaration zealous

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," wrote American author Ralph Waldo Emerson. Enthusiasm motivates us to pursue our interests and to strive for success. The words in this lesson describe different degrees of this emotion, or lack of it. You may be exhilarated by a success or be an avid sports fan. Or, lacking enthusiasm, you may feel indifferent to an outcome or be reticent to participate in something. You will find the words on this list useful in both school and everyday life.

- **1.** allure (ə-loor') from Latin ad-, "to" + German loirre, "bait"
 - a. noun A strong fascination or attraction; the power to attract
 - Unable to resist the allure of the teddy bear, the six-year-old grabbed it from the display case.
 - b. verb To attract with something desirable; entice
 - · Although Jeremy knew he should study for his test, his new video game allured him.
- 2. avid (av id) adjective from Latin avere, "to desire" Eager; very enthusiastic
 - An avid reader, Dad finished a novel every week.
- 3. devotion (dǐ-vō shən) noun from Latin devovere, "to vow" Complete dedication to a cause or person
 - Out of devotion to his religion, the monk took a vow of silence to help him concentrate on prayer.

devote verb The doctor left his hospital job and devoted himself to caring for sick people in countries without good health care.

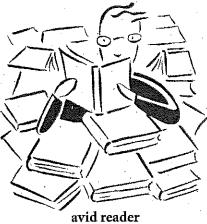
4. effusive (ĭ-fyōō'sĭv) adjective from Latin ex-, "out" + fundere, "to flow"

Unrestrained or excessive in emotional expression; gushing

• After her effusive praise of the child's performance, we weren't surprised to learn he was her nephew.

effusiveness noun We were embarrassed by Gabbie's effusiveness when she squealed, "I'm so, so, so happy to see you!"

- 5. exhilaration (ĭg-zĭl'ə-rā'shən) noun from Greek hilaros, "cheerful" **Excited happiness**
 - Imagine the exhilaration he felt when his essay won first prize! exhilarate verb Jamal was exhilarated when he received a big bonus.



Effusive can refer to embarrassing enthusiasm. 6. fanatic (fə-năt´ĭk) noun

A person excessively and unreasonably devoted to a cause or belief

• The fanatic stood on the street corner and screamed his views to anyone who would listen.

fanaticism noun In her fanaticism, she believed every silly thing the leader said.

fanatical adjective Beware of fanatical devotion to a cause.

7. indifferent (ĭn-dĭf'ər-ənt, -dĭf'rənt) adjective

- a. Not interested in or concerned about something; not caring
 - I am indifferent about which team wins the game.
- b. Not good or bad; mediocre
 - Caryn was an indifferent art student, but a great musician.

indifference noun Although he faked indifference, we knew he was disappointed by his grade on the test.

8. jubilant (joo bə-lənt) adjective from Latin iubilare, "to raise a shout of joy"

Filled with joy

• Ching was **jubilant** when his favorite uncle showed up at the party.

jubilation noun The room was filled with jubilation when Sonja's family discovered she had won a full scholarship to college.

- 9. reticent (ret'i-sont) adjective from Latin reticere, "to be silent"
 - a. Unwilling; reluctant
 - Ashanti was reticent about going on the overnight school trip.
 - b. Private about one's affairs; tending to say little
 - Joanna is reticent when it comes to talking about her family.

reticence noun Understandably, the general showed reticence when asked to discuss troop positions.

10. zealous (zĕl´əs) adjective

Highly motivated by dedication to a cause, an ideal, or a goal

 The zealous campaign volunteer worked for hours after everyone else had gone home.

zeal noun In her zeal to be a perfect mother, Geralynn sometimes forgot about her own well-being.

WORD ENRICHMENT

Fans and fanatics

Today, the word fanatic refers to blind devotion or intense beliefs. It seems fitting that the word comes from fanum, the Latin word for "temple." In the 1800s, fanatic was shortened to fan (as in sports fan). Today, fanatic has a negative meaning, whereas fan has a more positive one.

The term fanatic has a very negative meaning.

The Zealots were ancient Hebrews who revolted against Roman invaders. Today, a zealot is someone fanatically committed to a cause.