

Importance

WORD LIST

eminence	inconsequential	indispensable	indubitably	momentous
noteworthy	paramount	pettiness	prestige	superficial

The words in this lesson deal with different aspects of importance—and the lack of it. After you learn this vocabulary, you can decide whether an event is *noteworthy* or how *pettiness* may be avoided. Since setting priorities is something we constantly do, this vocabulary will be useful in many activities.

- 1. eminence** (ĕm'ə-nəns) *noun* from Latin *eminare*, “to stand out”
A position of fame, superiority, and distinction

 - Albert Einstein was a physicist of great **eminence**.

eminent *adjective* The college invited an **eminent** authority on the global economy to speak at the graduation ceremony.
- 2. inconsequential** (ĭn-kŏn'sĭ-kwĕn'shəl) *adjective* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *consequi*, “following closely”
Lacking importance; trivial

 - Although the volunteer task of delivering flowers to patients may seem **inconsequential**, it really helps cheer the patients up.
- 3. indispensable** (ĭn'dĭ-spĕn'sə-bəl) *adjective* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *dispensare*, “to distribute”
Required; essential; necessary

 - The new quarterback was **indispensable** to the team’s success.

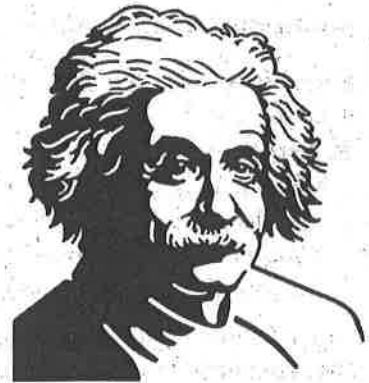
indispensability *noun* If you prove your **indispensability**, you can guarantee your job.
- 4. indubitably** (ĭn-dŏo'bĭ-tə-blĕ) *adverb* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *dubitare*, “to doubt”
Clearly; unquestionably; without a doubt

 - George Washington was **indubitably** a great U.S. president.
- 5. momentous** (mŏ-mĕn'təs) *adjective* from Latin *momentere*, “to matter”
Greatly important or significant

 - The defeat of Hitler in 1945 was a **momentous** event in European and world history.

momentousness *noun* He was overwhelmed by the **momentousness** of his college graduation.
- 6. noteworthy** (nŏt'wŭr'thĕ) *adjective* from Latin *notare*, “to notice”
Deserving notice or attention

 - Richard Axel and Linda Buck won a 2004 Nobel Prize for their **noteworthy** contributions to the understanding of the sense of smell.



Albert Einstein, *eminent* physicist

7. **paramount** (pär'ə-mount') *adjective* from Anglo-Norman *paramount*, "above"

Most important

- Safety is the airline's **paramount** concern.

8. **pettiness** (pēt'tē-nəs) *noun* from Old French *peti*, "little"

Concern with things of little importance

- Showing her **pettiness**, Angela refused to help rescue the cat buried in the rubble because she was worried about breaking a nail.

petty *adjective* Morgan was **petty** enough to resent having to help clean up after the party.

9. **prestige** (prē-stēzh') *noun*

High status; respect and admiration from others

- A university president has a position of great **prestige**.

prestigious *adjective* A Pulitzer is a **prestigious** writing award.

10. **superficial** (sōō'pär-fīsh'əl) *adjective* from Latin *super*, "above" + *facies*, "face"

a. Near the surface

- Fortunately, the cut was only **superficial**.

b. Not deep; trivial; unimportant

- You need to make more than **superficial** changes in your paper if you want a better grade.

superficiality *noun* The teacher was disappointed with the **superficiality** of the student's essay.

Memory clue: Think of the word *mountain* for *paramount*.

Pettiness has a connotation of being selfish.

ANALOGIES

On the answer line, write the letter of the answer that best completes each analogy. Refer to Lessons 18–20 if you need help with any of the lesson words.

- _____ 1. Delineate is to duties as _____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. robust is to weak | c. teacher is to student |
| b. noteworthy is to unimportant | d. demarcate is to boundaries |
- _____ 2. Paramount is to petty as _____.
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. staunch is to loyal | c. excellent is to awful |
| b. close is to proximity | d. hungry is to dinner |
- _____ 3. Coup is to government as _____.
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. wave is to sandcastle | c. omnipresent is to omnipotent |
| b. vote is to election | d. vulnerable is to stable |
- _____ 4. Trivial is to significance as _____.
- | |
|-----------------------------|
| a. prestige is to momentous |
| b. superficial is to depth |
| c. books are to learning |
| d. embody is to idea |