

# Movement and Change

## WORD LIST

agile	dawdle	distort	itinerary	mobilize
modify	quiver	recede	supplant	traverse

An ancient Greek philosopher said, "Nothing is permanent but change." Everywhere we look, we see motion and change. At one time, people traveled by horse and buggy. Cars, buses, trucks, and trains *traverse* our towns today. New technologies are constantly being invented and updated, *supplanting* older ones. The words presented in this lesson help you describe some of the changes you see around you.

**1. agile** (ăj'əl, ăj'īl') *adjective*

a. Able to move quickly and easily

- The **agile** football player raced past his opponent to score a touchdown.

b. Mentally alert; sharp

- The debater was **agile** in responding to his opponent's many points.

**agility** *noun* Gymnasts have great **agility**.

**2. dawdle** (dôd'əl) *verb*

To take more time than necessary; to move slowly

- If you **dawdle** in front of the store window, you may miss the bus.

**3. distort** (dī-stôrt') *verb* from Latin *dis-*, "apart" + *torquere*, "to twist"

a. To change something so as to make it less true; to misrepresent

- A good reporter tries not to

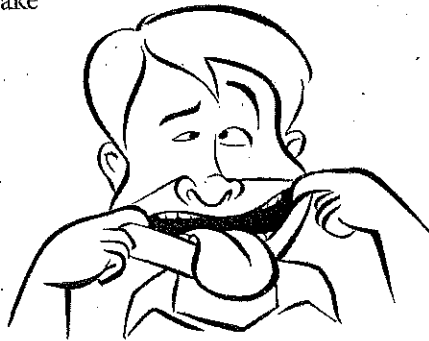
**distort** the news.

b. To twist out of the usual shape

- Your silly expression **distorted**

your face so much that I almost didn't recognize you.

**distortion** *noun* The young child's story was a complete **distortion** of events.



distort

**4. itinerary** (ī-tīn'ə-rēr'ē) *noun* from Latin *iter*, "journey"

The route for a journey

- The **itinerary** for Marie's trip included Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces.

9. **mobilize** (mō-bə-līz') *verb* from Latin *movere*, "to move"

- a. To prepare or to organize for a purpose
  - The union tried to **mobilize** a labor strike.
- b. To prepare for a fight or for war
  - The generals **mobilized** the troops for action.

**mobilization** *noun* Mobilization of two hundred students for the trip took hours of planning.

6. **modify** (mōd'ə-fī') *verb* from Latin *modificare*, "to measure or limit"

- To change or adjust; to alter
- When I found out that I was allergic to milk, I had to **modify** my diet.

**modification** *noun* The new principal made a slight **modification** to the school's dress code.

7. **quiver** (kwīv'ər) *verb*

- To tremble or shake
- His voice **quivered** with excitement as he announced the winner.

8. **recede** (rī-sēd') *verb* from Latin *re-*, "back" + *cedere*, "to go"

- To go back; to retreat; to move away
- When the tide starts to **recede**, we can go look for oysters.

9. **supplant** (sə-plānt') *verb*

- To replace
- The computer has almost entirely **supplanted** the typewriter.

10. **traverse** (trə-vûrs', trāv'ərs) *verb* from Latin *trans-*, "across"

- + *vertere*, "to turn"
- To travel or pass across, over, or through
- During their expedition, Lewis and Clark **traversed** the Rocky Mountains.

In grammar, *modify* means "to describe, qualify, or limit." In the phrase *the red wagon*, the adjective *red* modifies the noun *wagon*.

*Quiver* also means "a portable case for holding arrows."

The economic term *recession* comes from *recede*. A *recession* is an extended decline in business activity.

## WORD ENRICHMENT

### Twisted English

The word *distort* comes from roots meaning "to twist apart." Whether we *distort* the truth or our faces, we are twisting something so as to make it less true to the original form.

Other English words come from *torquere*, the Latin verb for "twist." *Torment* and *torture*, both meaning "to cause great pain," come from this verb. A *tortured* path is a path with many twists and turns. When people *extort* money, they get it by force, or "twist it out." (*Ex-* means "out.") People with great flexibility are able to *contort* their bodies into all sorts of shapes. *Contort* comes from the roots *con*, meaning "together," and *torquere*, meaning "to twist."

The verb *torquere* even gives a flower its name. The *nasturtium*'s name comes from the words *nas*, meaning "nose," and *torquere*, meaning "twist." The *nasturtium*'s fragrance is strong enough to twist—or wrinkle—the nose.