

Dictionaries tell us that a necessity is an absolute requirement, while an extra goes beyond the usual or the expected. A necessity, then, is a basic, and an extra is something additional. It is not always possible to make clear-cut distinctions between the two categories, however. Food, clothing, and shelter are obvious necessities, but beyond that, people's needs and choices vary. The question of necessities and extras is an interesting one, and it has no definite answers. You may like to think about the idea as you study the vocabulary words in this lesson.

WORD LIST

accessory
appropriate
auxiliary
entail
essence
excess
frivolous
imperative
pertinent
significant

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **accessory** (ăk-sēs'ə-rē) *noun* a. An extra that goes with and adds to the overall effect or usefulness of something: *earrings and other accessories.* b. Someone who aids a lawbreaker but is not present at the crime. c. Something that accompanies or assists. *adjective* a. Not main; secondary. b. Additional.

Example A basket was the only *accessory* on the new bicycle.

2. **appropriate** (ə-prō'prē-īt) *adjective* Suitable for a particular person, situation, or place; proper; fitting: *appropriate remarks.* *verb* (ə-prō'prē-āt') a. To take, often without permission: *Tom's sister appropriated his hockey jacket.* b. To set apart for a particular use: *Congress appropriated money for education.*

Related Words *appropriately* *adverb*; *appropriateness* *noun*

Example Blue jeans are not the *appropriate* dress for a wedding.

3. **auxiliary** (ōg-zīl'yə-rē) *adjective* a. Giving assistance or support: helping: *Have, can, and will are auxiliary verbs.* b. Held in reserve; additional: *auxiliary troops.* *noun* a. A helper. b. An organization that helps a larger one.

Example Some trucks have *auxiliary* gas tanks.

4. **entail** (ēn-tāl') *verb* To have as a necessary part; involve; require: *an assignment that entails library research.*

Example The plan to build a new school *entailed* raising taxes.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. **essence** (ēs'əns) *noun* a. Basic nature; identifying quality; absolutely necessary part; what is at the heart of something: *The essence of friendship is trust.* b. An extract: *essence of vanilla.* c. Perfume; scent.

Related Words **essential** *adjective*; **essential** *noun*; **essentially** *adverb*

Example Freedom of choice is the *essence* of democracy.

5. _____

6. **excess** (ik-sēs') *noun* a. Something that is more than the normal, necessary, or desirable amount or quantity: *an excess of carbohydrates.* b. An amount or quantity by which something exceeds another: *an excess of two gallons over capacity.* *adjective* Over what is required or normal: *excess fat.*

Related Words **excessive** *adjective*; **excessively** *adverb*

Example An *excess* of sun may cause a sunburn.

6. _____

7. **frivolous** (frīv'ə-ləs) *adjective* a. Not significant or worth attention; trivial: *wasting time on frivolous things.* b. Silly: *a frivolous person.*

Related Words **frivolity** *noun*; **frivolously** *adverb*

Example The Puritans considered holiday celebrations *frivolous*.

7. _____

8. **imperative** (im-pēr'ə-tīv) *adjective* a. Absolutely required; necessary: *A change in the rules is imperative.* b. Expressing a command: *an imperative tone of voice.*

Related Word **imperatively** *adverb*

Example The loudspeaker announced, "It is *imperative* that all field-trip students bring in signed permission slips."

8. _____

9. **pertinent** (pūr'tn-ənt) *adjective* Related in some specific way; relevant: *pertinent data.*

Related Words **pertain** *verb*; **pertinence** *noun*

Example An outline should contain only *pertinent* details.

9. _____

10. **significant** (sīg-nīf'ī-kənt) *adjective* a. Having meaning; meaningful: *a significant clue.* b. Valuable; worthy of note: *a significant contribution.*

Related Words **significance** *noun*; **significantly** *adverb*; **signify** *verb*

Example The newspaper story contained all *significant* details of the election.

10. _____

NAME _____

DATE _____

EXERCISE 1 COMPLETING DEFINITIONS

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that best completes each definition.

- 1. Behavior that is fitting for a certain occasion is _____ to it. 1. _____
- 2. To have as a necessary part is to _____. 2. _____
- 3. The basic nature of something is its _____. 3. _____
- 4. Something that is related (for example, to a topic) is _____. 4. _____
- 5. Something or someone that serves as a helper or as an addition is a(n) _____. 5. _____
- 6. Something that is absolutely necessary is said to be _____. 6. _____
- 7. Something that is meaningful or valuable in some way is _____. 7. _____
- 8. A paperweight is a common desk _____. 8. _____
- 9. A(n) _____ of something is more than enough of it. 9. _____
- 10. Silly, unimportant; or trivial matters could all be termed _____. 10. _____

EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Decide whether the italicized vocabulary word has been used correctly in the sentence. On the answer line, write *Correct* for correct use and *Incorrect* for incorrect use.

- 1. Because of fire it was *imperative* for students to leave the building immediately. 1. _____
- 2. Elena, Nick, and George are *pertinent*; they are cousins. 2. _____
- 3. Although born with long tails, lambs are *entailed* when still young. 3. _____
- 4. In winter wood stoves are a common *auxiliary* source of heat. 4. _____
- 5. A person who is indirectly involved in a crime is an *accessory*. 5. _____
- 6. It is *appropriate* to use a vase as a hammer. 6. _____
- 7. Abdul had to pay *excess* postage for the overweight letter. 7. _____
- 8. The *essence* of Faye's long explanation for not turning in her homework was that she had forgotten to do it. 8. _____
- 9. Every once in a while, *frivolous* conversation is fun. 9. _____
- 10. A penny raise in an hourly wage is a *significant* increase. 10. _____

EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. Absolute honesty was the _____ of his character. 1. _____
a. excess b. accessory c. auxiliary d. essence
2. Fashion magazines are full of advice on using _____ to give a new look to last year's clothes. 2. _____
a. accessories b. frivolities c. auxiliaries d. pertinence
3. Computer programming jobs often _____ a lot of overtime work. 3. _____
a. appropriate b. entail c. pertain d. signify
4. Most application forms have room for work experience _____ to the job. 4. _____
a. excessive b. pertinent c. frivolous d. auxiliary
5. _____ forces were called in to fight the six-alarm blaze. 5. _____
a. Significant b. Pertinent c. Frivolous d. Auxiliary
6. "If you go grocery shopping when you're hungry," warned Mom, "you may end up buying a(n) _____ amount of food." 6. _____
a. essential b. appropriate c. significant d. excessive
7. "Is it really _____ for us to hand in our reports by April 1?" asked Ginger. 7. _____
a. pertinent b. excessive c. imperative d. significant
8. "Is there any _____ to rumors that the President will veto the new tax bill?" the reporter asked the press secretary. 8. _____
a. appropriateness c. significance
b. excess d. auxiliary
9. Under certain conditions, the state has the right to _____ and to use privately owned land. 9. _____
a. signify b. entail c. pertain d. appropriate
10. Unprepared for the quiz, Lou gave up and wrote witty but _____ answers. 10. _____
a. frivolous b. accessory c. auxiliary d. imperative

EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Each sentence contains an italicized vocabulary word in a form that does not fit the sentence. On the answer line, write the form of the word that does fit the sentence.

1. Our teacher says that birthday parties are a necessary *frivolous*. 1. _____
2. Joan used her charge cards *excess*. 2. _____
3. When in doubt about a movie's *appropriate*, check its rating. 3. _____
4. The witness squirmed *significant* under the lawyer's stare. 4. _____
5. "Which *accessory* come with the car and which are extra?" asked the buyer. 5. _____
6. Food, shelter, and clothing are the three *essence* of life. 6. _____