

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

abate

ə bāt'

v. To become weaker; to decrease.

The speaker waited until the applause had **abated** before continuing.

unabated *adj.* Showing no sign of weakening; showing no decrease.

Representative Millet showed **unabated** enthusiasm for campaigning for the senate seat, even though he had been twice defeated for that office.



.....
Show your partner how you look when your energy abates.

acknowledge

ak nāl'ij

v. 1. To admit the existence of.

Did the teacher **acknowledge** that you had turned in your paper?

2. To express recognition or thanks for.

The new Wimbledon singles champion raised her hand to **acknowledge** the cheers of the crowd.

acknowledged *adj.* Commonly accepted or recognized.

Bill James is an **acknowledged** expert on baseball.



.....
Chat with your partner about what you do or say to acknowledge a friend who walks past you.

agent

ā'jənt

n. 1. A person who acts or does business for another.

The author's **agent** found a company to publish his latest mystery story.

2. Something that brings about a result.

A new principal can be a powerful **agent** for change in a school.

authority

ə thôr'ə tē

n. 1. The right to give orders, make decisions, or take action.

Only the Congress of the United States has the **authority** to declare war.

2. An expert source of information.

The researcher Jane Goodall is a world **authority** on chimpanzees.

authorities *n.* A group of people who have the right to enforce laws.

The **authorities** closed the restaurant because it did not meet the proper standards for cleanliness.



.....
Tell your partner about a hobby or topic you are an authority on.

devastate
dev' ə stāt

v. To ruin or destroy completely.

Farmers in the Midwest fear that lack of rain will **devastate** the wheat crop.

devastating *adj.* Causing destruction.

A **devastating** hurricane destroyed hundreds of homes in southern Florida.

devastation *n.* Great destruction.

The earthquake in Japan created a scene of massive **devastation**.



.....
Discuss with your partner how rain, wind, or snow can cause devastation.

epidemic
ep ə dem' ik

n. The rapid spreading of a disease to many people at one time.

The flu **epidemic** of 1918 killed over twenty million people in the Northern Hemisphere.

adj. Spreading rapidly as a disease over a wide area.

AIDS became **epidemic** in central Africa in the 1980s.

estimate
es' tə mēt

n. A number that is not exact; a careful guess.

The mechanic's **estimate** for repairing the car is \$1000.

v. (es' tə māt) To figure out roughly; to make an approximate calculation.

We **estimate** that it will take the bus driver an hour to drive us to the museum.



.....
Work with your partner to quickly estimate how many chairs there are in your classroom.

evict
ē vikt'

v. To force out of property by taking legal action.

The landlord threatened to **evict** the tenants for not paying the rent.

impartial
im pār' shəl

adj. Not favoring one side more than another; fair.

A judge should be **impartial** in the courtroom.

industrious
in dus' trē əs

adj. Hardworking; not lazy.

The more **industrious** students were rewarded at the end of the year with scholarships.

infuriate
in fyoor' ē āt

v. To make very angry.

Cruelty to animals **infuriates** me.



.....
Share with your partner something that infuriates you.

irrelevant
ir rel' ə vānt

adj. Having nothing to do with the subject.

It's **irrelevant** whether I want to go to the party because I'm too sick to go.

precise
pri sīs

adj. Exact; specific.

Do you know the **precise** time that your class starts?

precision *n.* (pri sizh'ən) Exactness.

An eye surgeon's work requires great **precision**.



.....
Tell your partner the precise number of purple things you can see right now.

sham
sham

n. Something fake or false.

Their offer to make us rich turned out to be a **sham**.

adj. Not genuine; fake.

Although he tried to appear sorry, his **sham** apology fooled no one.

v. To pretend.

We **shammed** illness so we could stay home.

trek
trek

n. A long, slow, and difficult journey.

The hikers were exhausted after their **trek** over the mountain.

v. To travel slowly and with difficulty.

Sam **trekked** ten miles into town after his car broke down.