

obedient
ō bē' dē ənt

adj. Doing what one is asked or told.

[When giving orders, a ship's captain expects the crew to be *obedient*.]

obedience *n.* The state or condition of doing what one is told.

[We are trying to teach our Labrador retriever *obedience*.]

obstacle
äb' stə kəl

n. Something that prevents one from moving forward.

[The *obstacle* holding up traffic was a tree blown over by last night's storm.]

patient
pā' shənt

adj. Willing to wait without complaining.

[The audience was very *patient* even though the show started thirty minutes late.]

n. A person in a doctor's care.

[The *patients* in this part of the hospital are recovering from operations.]

patience *n.* A willingness to wait for someone or something without complaining.

[Having to stand in line for an hour to buy tickets really tested my *patience*.]

pedestrian
pə des' trē ən

n. A person who is walking; someone traveling on foot.

[*Pedestrians* should use the crosswalk to avoid accidents.]

retire
rē tīr'

v. 1. To stop working because one has reached a certain age.

[The jewelry company usually gives its workers a small gift when they *retire*.]

2. To go to bed.

[I was not feeling well, so I *retired* early.]

retirement *n.* The state of no longer working.

[My Uncle Eli regularly saved money for his *retirement*.]

1A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 1. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) become familiar with it.
(b) do it carefully.

- (c) To accustom oneself to something is to
(d) To distract oneself by doing something is to

2. (a) is under a doctor's care.
(b) A patient is a person who

- (c) A companion is one who
(d) gives hope to others.

3. (a) An assignment is
(b) A concept is

- (c) a general idea about something.
(d) something that stands in the way.

4. (a) has traveled a lot.
(b) A pedestrian is someone who

- (c) spends time with another person.
(d) A companion is someone who

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5. (a) An alert is
(b) a meeting arranged in advance.
- (c) work given out to be done.
(d) An assignment is
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6. (a) Patience is
(b) Obedience is
- (c) help and support given to another.
(d) the willingness to wait without complaining.
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7. (a) is big and strong.
(b) gets along with others.
- (c) An alert person is one who
(d) A burly person is one who
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8. (a) Obedience is
(b) Retirement is
- (c) a drawing away of one's attention.
(d) a time when one no longer works.
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9. (a) To jostle someone is
(b) to warn the person of danger.
- (c) To distract someone is
(d) to bump up against that person.
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10. (a) go to bed.
(b) To budge is to
- (c) To retire is to
(d) do as one is told.
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1B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the italicized phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 1.

1. They expected their children to be *willing to do as they were told*.
2. My grandparents plan to travel to other countries when they *give up working at their jobs*.
3. They refused to *make the slightest move* even though we pleaded with them to step aside.
4. If you and your roommate are not *able to get along*, you should split up.
5. Elido sounded the *signal that warned of danger* when he saw smoke.

1D Word Relationships

In each of the groups below, circle the two words that are synonyms. (Synonyms are words that have the same or almost the same meaning.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SILENT
ALERT | OBEDIENT
WATCHFUL | 6. PATIENT
BURLY | UNCOMPLAINING
WEAK |
| 2. DISTRACTION
ATTENTION | HOMEWORK
ASSIGNMENT | 7. ALERT
TIRE | RETIRE
WARN |
| 3. BUDGE
FIND | FORSAKE
MOVE | 8. OBSTACLE
IDEA | CONCEPT
ACTION |
| 4. ACCUSTOMED
USUAL | PATIENT
STRANGE | 9. STRONG
COMPATIBLE | SMOOTH
BURLY |
| 5. DISTRACT
JOSTLE | SHOVE
COMPLAIN | 10. ASSIGN
REMEMBER | SELECT
RETIRE |

1E Narrative

Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

The **concept** that trained dogs could act as eyes for those who could not see developed at the beginning of the twentieth century in Germany in an unusual school. The pupils were not humans, but dogs who were taught how to lead people who were blind. The idea caught on quickly, and guide dogs, or Seeing Eye dogs as they are also known, began to be trained in many countries. They are now a familiar sight. These **patient** and loyal animals lead their blind **companions** everywhere they go, permitting them to make their way in the world almost as well as sighted persons.

Not every breed of dog makes a good guide. Seeing Eye dogs must be **alert** at all times, so dogs that are easily **distracted** are not suitable. Labrador retrievers, German shepherds, and boxers make excellent guides because they are smart, easy to train, and usually get along well with people. During its training, the dog is taken to many kinds of busy places. This is to get it **accustomed** to anything that might happen. A dog is trained in large stores, noisy airports, and crowded restaurants. It rides on buses and in taxis. It is pushed and poked, and it learns to ignore anything that might cause its attention to wander.

The Seeing Eye dog is responsible for steering its owner carefully past any **obstacles**. On busy sidewalks, the dog must skillfully weave its way around other **pedestrians** to make sure its owner doesn't get **jostled**. A guide dog is trained to come to a stop just before it reaches a curb; this is the way it tells its owner to take a step up or down. But even though it learns to be **obedient**, a guide dog is also taught that sometimes it must disobey. For example, if its owner tells it to cross a street when a car is coming, it won't **budge** until it is safe to cross. While it is being trained, a guide dog is never punished for making a mistake; instead it is encouraged to do better by being rewarded when it behaves correctly.

When the training is complete, a guide dog is **assigned** to its new owner. The two of them need to be **compatible** because they will be together for a long time. The size, weight, and nature of both are taken into account. A **burly** person might be more comfortable with a large dog while a person who spends most of the day inside probably will not want to be matched with a frisky dog that needs plenty of exercise. From the beginning, a strong bond needs to form between the dog and the owner.

The Seeing Eye headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey, was the first, and is still the largest, school for guide dogs in the United States. Every year several hundred blind people spend a month there learning how to work with the dogs they have been matched with. Usually a guide dog stays with its owner for about ten years before it **retires**. Then, it often may go to live with friends of the owner and stay with them as an ordinary family pet for the rest of its life.

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word, use a vocabulary word in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words) from this lesson's word list.

1. What was the **concept** behind the Seeing Eye dog movement?

2. When does the relationship between guide dog and owner officially begin?

3. What sort of dog might a **burly** person be matched up with?

4. Why do you think a powerful dog would not be matched with someone who is not very strong?

5. Where are you most likely to see **pedestrians**?
