

Lesson
20

Goals and Ambitions

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with human goals and ambitions.

accomplishment (uh KAHM plish muhnt) N. an achievement or feat *(The parents of the class valedictorian were proud of their daughter's accomplishment.)*

affirm (uh FURM) V. to declare true; to validate *(I hope my testimony will affirm your story.)*

aspiration (AS puh RAY shuhn) N. an ambition or objective *(Johnny's aspiration was to be an astronaut, but he became a jet pilot instead.)*

aspire (uh SPYR) V. to desire or seek to accomplish *(If you aspire to a career in medicine, you had better study hard.)*

attain (uh TAYN) V. to achieve or gain *(Without natural talent one can only attain theatrical success through hard work.)*

compulsion (kuhm PUHL shuhn) N. a state of being forced or compelled, or that which compels *(Victor felt a compulsion to follow in his father's footsteps and become an engineer.)*

dauntless (DAWNT lis) ADJ. fearless or unafraid *(The young officer was dauntless in his pursuit of the suspect.)*

diligent (DIL uh juhnt) ADJ. industrious or hardworking *(Jane was a diligent student and deserved the honors bestowed on her.)*

fidelity (fi DEL i tee) N. devotion or loyalty *(Daniel's fidelity to his ideals has withstood the test of time.)*

fruition (froo ISH uhn) N. a fulfillment or realization *(After years of work, the young director finally saw his film project brought to fruition.)*

initiative (i NISH uh tiv) N. a first step *(Once you take the initiative, you may reach your goal.)*

milestone (MYL STOHN) N. a significant event or turning point *(Playing the role of Hamlet was a milestone in Jason's stage career.)*

objective (uhb JEK tiv) N. a goal or purpose *(Hector's objective was to finish law school before he turned twenty-five.)*

optimistic (AHP tuh MIS tik) ADJ. confident or hopeful *(The board of directors was optimistic about the company's chances of weathering the crisis.)*

pitfall (PIT FAWL) N. a hazard or risk *(Being misquoted in the press is a pitfall of fame.)*

steadfast (STED FAST) ADJ. unwavering or fixed *(Ramona was steadfast in her desire to complete her education.)*

surpass (sur PAS) V. to exceed *(Anita is determined to surpass her previous best time in the marathon.)*

vacillate (VAS uh LAYT) V. to waver or to be doubtful; to hesitate from uncertainty about a decision *(Sam's lack of confidence caused him to vacillate before every major decision.)*

yearning (YUR ning) N. a longing or craving *(Stan's grandmother expressed a yearning to return to her native Poland.)*

zeal (zeel) N. enthusiasm; eagerness *(Mary's zeal to help those in need made her an important member of the community.)*

Exercise 1

Choose the letter of the word that best completes the sentence.

1. A major ---- of the Johnson Administration was the passage of civil rights legislation.
A. pitfall B. fruition C. yearning D. accomplishment
2. The two sides are ---- that an agreement can be reached.
F. dauntless G. diligent H. optimistic J. steadfast
3. The team's primary ---- is to play a good, honest game.
A. objective B. fruition C. milestone D. initiative
4. Ron's lack of ---- doomed his business career from the start.
F. fruition G. yearning H. milestone J. initiative
5. The company needs more money and time to bring its plans to ----.
A. yearning B. fruition C. aspiration D. objective
6. The new employee is ---- in completing his often difficult assignments.
F. optimistic G. dauntless H. steadfast J. diligent
7. Winning the national award was a ---- in the journalist's career.
A. fidelity B. zeal C. milestone D. fruition
8. Jerry cannot ---- much longer in his choice of colleges.
F. vacillate G. aspire H. attain J. affirm
9. Jean's ---- for success inspired her to practice tirelessly.
A. pitfall B. fidelity C. milestone D. yearning
10. The witness will ---- that the statement is true.
F. affirm G. attain H. vacillate J. surpass
11. The boy was ---- in his dislike of spinach.
A. optimistic B. steadfast C. diligent D. dauntless
12. Whitney's ---- for learning will bring her much academic success.
F. pitfall G. milestone H. fruition J. zeal
13. Leon had great ---- to his basketball team and never missed a practice.
A. yearning B. fidelity C. pitfall D. initiative
14. We hope that this year's fund-raising efforts will ---- all previous years.
F. surpass G. affirm H. aspire J. attain
15. Rosa felt a ---- to finish her research paper quickly.
A. fruition B. compulsion C. milestone D. fidelity

Exercise 2

Choose the letter of the word pair that has a relationship similar to the relationship in the first word pair.

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|--|---|---|
| <p>16. ASPIRE : FAME ::
F. joke : sadness
G. seclude : surround
H. climb : heights
J. greet : rudeness</p> | <p>18. DAUNTLESS : FEARFUL ::
F. faultless : perfect
G. glowing : excited
H. indecisive : certain
J. interested : concerned</p> | <p>20. ASPIRATION : SUCCESS ::
F. hope : dismay
G. fear : failure
H. anger : despair
J. humility : boldness</p> |
| <p>17. ATTAIN : ACCOMPLISH ::
A. manage : direct
B. harm : coddle
C. teach : graduate
D. write : sing</p> | <p>19. PITFALL : DANGER ::
A. competence : ability
B. proposal : executive
C. talent : success
D. refusal : toleration</p> | |

Vocabulary

Exercise 1

- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 5 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 6 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 7 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 8 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 9 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 10 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 11 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 12 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 13 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 14 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 15 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Exercise 2

- 16 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 17 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 18 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 19 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 20 (F) (G) (H) (J)