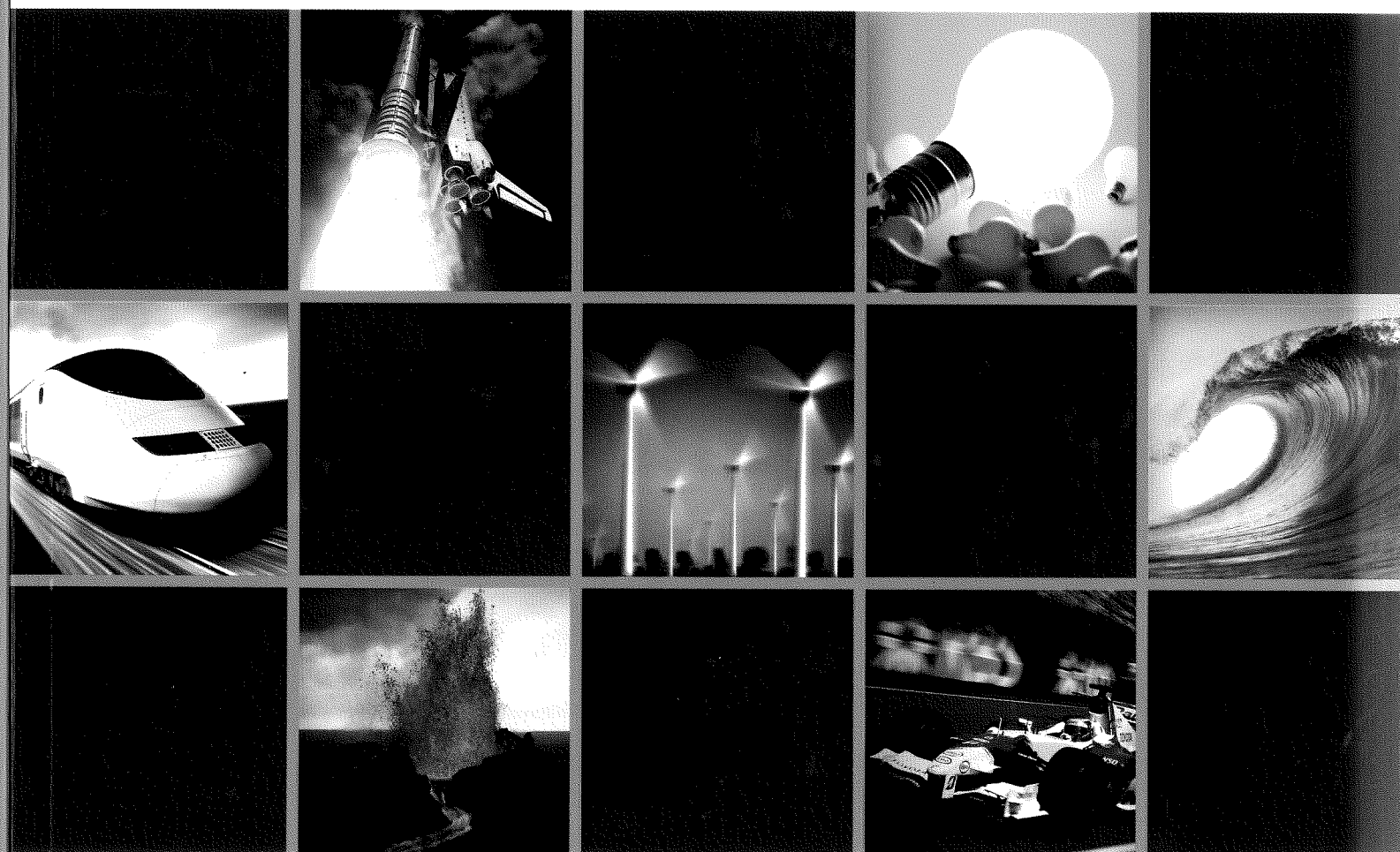


# VOCABULARY POWER 3

PRACTICING ESSENTIAL WORDS



Kate Dingle



PEARSON  
Longman

ambiguous

deduce

link

objective

react

cooperate

deny

mature

pursue

vary

## WORDS IN CONTEXT

Use the sentences to guess what each key word means. Choose the meaning that is closest to that of the key word in **bold**.

1. **ambiguous**  
/æm'bigjuəs/  
-adjective

- When the presidential candidate was asked how he planned to help the environment, he gave an **ambiguous** answer, so no one knows his plans.
- Sam was **ambiguous** when we asked him if he'd come to the party; my husband and I couldn't understand if he would come or not.

*Ambiguous*  
means ...

- a. easy to understand    b. interesting    c. **not clear**

2. **cooperate**  
/kou'apə,reit/  
-verb

- Is it easy for you to **cooperate** with other people, working together toward a common goal?
- Both governments are **cooperating** to build a bridge that will connect the two countries.

*Cooperate* means ...

- a. to work with someone else to achieve something that you both want    b. to create problems for other people    c. to do something even though you don't want to

3. **deduce**  
/dr'dus/  
-verb

- Hallie told me the age of her two brothers, so I was able to **deduce** that she is twenty-five.
- By listening to Chloe's accent, we **deduced** that she was from France.

*Deduce* means ...

- a. to be told a fact    b. to make a judgment based on the information you have    c. not to understand something important

4. **deny**  
/dr'nai/  
-verb

- The actor **denied** rumors that he used drugs, insisting that he led a clean life.
- An honest person will admit that he or she made a mistake rather than **denying** it.

*Deny* means ...

- a. to say that something is true    b. to agree    c. to say that something is not true

5. **link**  
/lɪŋk/  
-verb

- The programmer **linked** his music web site with the web site for his favorite radio station.
- Zara can **link** her interest in English to her goals for the future.

*Link* means ...

- a. to make a connection    b. to separate    c. to find

6. **mature**  
/mə'tʃʊr/  
-adjective

- Americans usually believe that a teenager is **mature** enough to leave home at age eighteen.
- Wesley is not very **mature**. He's twenty-six, but he acts as if he were sixteen.

*Mature* means . . . a. behaving in a reasonable way      b. irresponsible and silly      c. acting like a child

7. **objective**  
/əb'dʒektɪv/  
-noun

- One of my **objectives** this year is to be accepted by a good university.
- What **objectives** do you hope to achieve in the next six months?

*Objective* means . . . a. something unimportant      b. something you work hard to achieve      c. idea

8. **pursue**  
/pʊ'su/  
-verb

- Whenever Terrance has a goal, he **pursues** it until he is successful.
- Marie is **pursuing** a career as a video editor, so she is moving to New York, where there is a lot of video editing work.

*Pursue* means . . . a. to choose      b. to try to achieve      c. to wish for

9. **react**  
/ri'ækt/  
-verb

- When the fire started, Matt **reacted** quickly and threw water on the flames.
- How would you **react** if your neighbor played loud music at 2:00 A.M.?

*React* means . . . a. to behave in a certain way when someone says or does something      b. to agree with something someone says or does      c. to do nothing when someone says or does something

10. **vary**  
/'væri/  
-verb

- Instead of eating the same thing every night for dinner, it is healthier to **vary** the foods you eat.
- My sister's moods **vary** according to the weather.

*Vary* means . . . a. to change or differ      b. to be the same      c. to continue

## WORDS AND DEFINITIONS

Read each definition and write the word it defines on the line.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *link* \_\_\_\_\_ to make a connection between two things
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to say that something is not true
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to behave in a particular way because of what someone has done or said to you
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to differ, or to change often
5. \_\_\_\_\_ something that you are working hard to achieve
6. \_\_\_\_\_ not clear because it could have more than one meaning
7. \_\_\_\_\_ to make a judgment based on the information you have

8. \_\_\_\_\_ to work with someone else to achieve something you both want
9. \_\_\_\_\_ to continue trying to achieve something over a long time
10. \_\_\_\_\_ behaving in a reasonable way like an adult

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. In which of the following quotes is someone **denying** something?
  - a. "It's true that I lost your keys."
  - b. "No comment."
  - c. "I didn't do it!"
2. Which of the following things would a **mature** teenager NOT do?
  - a. drink a lot of beer and drive a car
  - b. come home at a reasonable time at night
  - c. help clean the house
3. An **objective** is
  - a. a problem.
  - b. a fact.
  - c. a goal.
4. A person who **cooperates** easily
  - a. could work well with a team.
  - b. had better work alone.
  - c. creates problems in an office.
5. If your life in the United States **varies** from your life in your home country, it is
  - a. the same as your life in your home country.
  - b. different from your life in your home country.
  - c. more interesting than your life in your home country.
6. Which of the following things is NOT possible to **pursue**?
  - a. a dream
  - b. a medical degree
  - c. a headache
7. If you saw a friend who had wet hair and was carrying a gym bag and goggles, what would you **deduce**?
  - a. that she had just been taking a math class
  - b. that she had just been walking her dog
  - c. that she had just been swimming in the pool
8. If a girl asks her boyfriend where he was last night and he gives an **ambiguous** answer, she might say,
  - a. "Why are you being so unclear?"
  - b. "I love you, too."
  - c. "I understand."
9. Which country was once **linked** with Alaska?
  - a. Mexico
  - b. Thailand
  - c. Russia
10. How would a student probably **react** once being accepted by Harvard University?
  - a. take a nap
  - b. shout with happiness
  - c. cry angry tears

## WORD FAMILIES

Now that you have studied the ten key words and their basic definitions, you are ready to learn words that belong to the same family as some of the key words. A word family includes words that look alike but have different functions (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb). Their meanings are related but different.

A. Look at each model phrase and decide whether the word in **bold** is used as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. Put a check (✓) in the correct column.

	NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
1. <b>cooperate</b>				
• happily <b>cooperate</b> with		✓		
• full <b>cooperation</b>	✓			
• a <b>cooperative</b> coworker			✓	
2. <b>deny</b>				
• totally <b>deny</b> it				
• quick <b>denial</b>				
3. <b>link</b>				
• <b>linked</b> the ideas				
• an interesting <b>link</b>				
4. <b>mature</b>				
• a <b>mature</b> child				
• <b>immature</b> friends				
• surprising <b>maturity</b>				
5. <b>react</b>				
• <b>react</b> quickly				
• an unusual <b>reaction</b>				
• a <b>reactive</b> person				
6. <b>vary</b>				
• often <b>varies</b>				
• a lot of <b>variety</b>				

B. Read the first half of each sentence and match it with the appropriate ending on page 6.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ___ <i>e</i> 1. Ismael likes to read a(n)   | ___ 7. It's important that every camp counselor has a certain level of |
| ___ 2. When Ava yelled at her coworker for his mistake, I realized that she is a(n) | ___ 8. Do you think there is a   |
| ___ 3. You'll appreciate having Mike Perez in your group; he's very                 | ___ 9. You and I had discussed it, so I was surprised by your          |
| ___ 4. In kindergarten, kids learn about  |  |
| ___ 5. Thirty-year-old Arturo tells childish jokes; he's really                     |  |
| ___ 6. Weren't you surprised by her emotional                                       |  |

- a. **immature**.  
 b. **reaction** to the news?  
 c. **denial** of the problem.  
 d. **reactive** person.  
 e. **variety** of books.  
 f. **cooperation** and respect.  
 g. **maturity**.  
 h. **link** between junk food and obesity?  
 i. **cooperative**.

## SAME WORD, DIFFERENT MEANING

Most words have more than one meaning. Study the additional meanings of **cooperate**, **objective**, and **pursue**. Then read each sentence and decide which meaning is used.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| a. <b>cooperate</b> v.   | to work with someone else to achieve what you both want                   |
| b. <b>cooperate</b> v.   | to do what someone asks you to do   |
| c. <b>objective</b> n.   | a goal that you are working to achieve                                    |
| d. <b>objective</b> adj. | not influenced by your own feelings, beliefs, or ideas                    |
| e. <b>pursue</b> v.      | to continue trying to achieve something over a long time                  |
| f. <b>pursue</b> v.      | to chase or follow someone or something in order to catch him, her, or it |

- f   1. The police **pursued** the bank robbers down the highway.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Let's set our **objectives** for this meeting before we begin.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Should a judge make **objective** decisions or decisions based on his personal feelings?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When Sam was arrested by the police, he told them that he would **cooperate** fully and not give them any problems.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I am **pursuing** a career in nursing.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Vietnamese and French offices will **cooperate** on effective management training.

## WORDS IN SENTENCES

Complete each sentence with one of the words from the box.

<b>ambiguous</b>	<b>deduce</b>	<b>immature</b>	<b>objective</b>	<b>reaction</b>
<b>cooperative</b>	<b>deny</b>	<b>link</b>	<b>pursuing</b>	<b>vary</b>

1. R. J. didn't \_\_\_\_\_ *deny* \_\_\_\_\_ that he was bad dancer when his brother laughed at him in the nightclub. In fact, R. J. laughed, too.  
 2. A jury must be \_\_\_\_\_ when considering the facts in a court case.  
 3. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ between smoking and lung cancer.  
 4. I'm interested in hearing about your \_\_\_\_\_ to what happened.  
 5. A good detective can always \_\_\_\_\_ who is guilty.

6. Young children usually can't do one thing for a very long time, so it's important to \_\_\_\_\_ their activities throughout the day.
7. Sara's relationship with Leo is \_\_\_\_\_ to me; I don't know if they are dating or just friends.
8. On TV, we can often see detectives \_\_\_\_\_ a criminal down a busy city street.
9. Even though Hannah is eighteen, she is really \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't trust her to babysit my two-year-old.
10. My cousin Joe isn't \_\_\_\_\_; he argues a lot and doesn't work well in a team.

## WORDS IN COLLOCATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS

Following are common collocations and expressions with some of the key words. Read the definitions and then complete the conversations with the collocations and expressions. You may have to change word forms for correct grammar.

1. **ambiguous**
  - **ambiguous answer** an answer that is confusing or unclear because it could be understood in more than one way
2. **cooperate**
  - **refuse to cooperate** refuse to work with someone or do what someone asks you to do
3. **mature**
  - **mature for his/her age** said of a child who acts more grown up than most children his or her age
4. **objective**
  - **main objective** the most important goal that you are trying to achieve
5. **pursue**
  - **pursue the (matter, question, argument)** to continue trying to ask about, find out about, or persuade someone about a particular subject
6. **vary**
  - **vary from place to place** to be different in different places

1. EMPLOYER: Why do you want to pursue a career in medicine?  
 JOB APPLICANT: My father was a doctor, and I became interested in his work when I was a child. For as long as I can remember, my main objective has been to become a doctor, too.
2. DETECTIVE: You killed Mary Jones.  
 DEFENDANT: No! I deny it.  
 DETECTIVE: Then why did you react by running when I entered your office?

DEFENDANT: I won't tell you anything!

DETECTIVE: If you \_\_\_\_\_, things will be much harder for you. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ matter until I find the truth.

3. MOTHER 1: Wow, kids really \_\_\_\_\_. My twelve-year-old niece in San Diego needs a babysitter, but her twelve-year-old cousin in Boston \_\_\_\_\_; she babysits other kids. Maybe kids in Boston grow up faster!

MOTHER 2: That's an interesting idea, but I don't agree with you. I think maturity depends on the kid, not the city.

4. HISTORY

TEACHER: Jason, why didn't you do your homework?

JASON: How did you know I didn't do my homework?

HISTORY

TEACHER: First, you stared at your feet when I asked for volunteers to answer the question. Then, when I called on you, you gave such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_. I deduced that you hadn't done the assignment.

JASON: It's true. Sorry!

## WORDS IN A READING

Read this article about alternative fuel for cars. Complete it with words from the boxes.

ambiguous

deducing

objective

variety

### CAN VEGETABLE-OIL CARS SAVE THE WORLD?

Gas is expensive. Old vegetable cooking oil from restaurants is free. A car can actually run on either. So why aren't more people deducing <sup>1</sup> that they should give up petroleum and use peanut power instead?

"Making the switch couldn't be simpler," said Patrick Kuhn, who converted one of four trucks at his company, Charlotte Moving Truck Rentals, to run on vegetable oil earlier this year. He said his customers love it and constantly choose the veggie-powered vehicle over his others.

But while Kuhn's truck may be popular, for many people life with a veggie car might not be so easy. And although this alternative fuel may be cheap and clean, its potential widespread effect on the environment seems \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>2</sup> because there simply isn't enough of it to make a big dent in our gas consumption.

Kuhn said it cost \$3,500 to convert the truck to veggie power, which can be done to any diesel engine. For convenience, he buys used restaurant cooking oil from a dealer about an hour away—the same guy, actually, who installed Kuhn's veggie fuel system. Kuhn pays the supplier—who collects, filters, and delivers the oil—about \$1.50 a gallon. Compare that with the \$3 a gallon he said he'd pay for diesel.



Kuhn is part of what Lee Briante, a spokesman for Greasecar, the largest purveyor\* of veggie fuel conversion kits, says is a growing market. In the first few years, people drove vegetable oil cars as a way to help the environment. These days, the more common \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> is saving money.

Indeed, the economics of veggie oil are even better for a car than they are for a truck. A \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> of car conversion kits are available online. These kits cost about \$800. You can install the system yourself, or it can be installed at one of two dozen Greasecar-certified mechanics nationwide for another \$600.

cooperates

denying

linked

pursue

react

But Briante said that the government regulations \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> to vegetable oil fuel make it hard for most people to keep their veggie-cars fueled. Many people have to fuel up by forming a relationship with a local restaurant, which leaves its old cooking oil out back in five-gallon jugs for the user to collect. (Restaurants usually have to pay to get rid of this oil, so proprietors are often happy to do so.)

Another downside: Many drivers \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> negatively to the news that they have to strain the oil to clean out the old French fries before they pour it into the tank.

And since there just isn't that much vegetable oil available to power cars, it's unlikely that there will ever be a large push for these cars. Briante said there are about 100 million gallons of waste restaurant oil generated annually. That would replace only about 0.07 percent of the 140 billion gallons of gas Americans use each year, and that's assuming that everyone \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>, switching from gasoline to diesel engines. Using new vegetable oil—not the used stuff from restaurants—raises similar scarcity questions.

One environmental group, which declined to be identified, pays little attention to the prospect of veggie oil reducing oil dependency or clearing up the air, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> that these cars are a real environmental issue.

But that doesn't mean more people won't \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> veggie cars. "With \$3 diesel, I don't think it will take long before someone realizes, 'Hey, there's money to be made in this,'" said Kuhn.

\*Purveyor: *someone who provides goods or services to people as a business*

(Adapted from "Can Vegetable Oil Cars Save the World?" CNNmoney.com, July 24, 2006.)

## WORDS IN DISCUSSION

Apply the key words to your own life. Read and discuss each question in small groups. Try to use the key words.

### 1. objective

An objective I have this year: \_\_\_\_\_ *to improve my English*

Someone I know who can't make objective decisions: \_\_\_\_\_ *my emotional aunt*

### 2. react

How I would react if I won \$1 million: \_\_\_\_\_

How I would react if you spilled coffee on my shirt: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. pursue

Something I want to pursue this month: \_\_\_\_\_

Something I once pursued that was a mistake: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. mature

How much of the time I am mature: \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the

Someone I know who is really silly and immature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. ambiguous

Something that seems ambiguous to me but that I want to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

Something that is not at all ambiguous to me: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. vary

How frequently I vary the kinds of foods I eat: \_\_\_\_\_

How much my life now varies from my life a year ago: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. link

What memories I link with chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_

The person with whom I have the strongest link: \_\_\_\_\_

### 8. cooperate

A person I have a difficult time cooperating with: \_\_\_\_\_

A situation in which it's really important to cooperate: \_\_\_\_\_

### 9. deny

Something I'd deny if my grandmother asked me about it: \_\_\_\_\_

The last time I denied something: \_\_\_\_\_

### 10. deduce

What people can deduce about me from looking at me: \_\_\_\_\_

What people can deduce about me from how I lead my life: \_\_\_\_\_

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## WORDS IN WRITING

Choose two topics and write a paragraph on each. Try to use the key words.

1. In your home country, does culture **vary** from city to city? Describe the **variety** in culture that can be found throughout your country.
2. What career are you **pursuing**? Explain why you chose this career, and what your main **objective** is this year in working toward this job.
3. Do you think a child's **maturity** is **linked** with how his parents raised him or her does it depend more on personality? Explain with examples from your life.
4. Do you believe that there is any situation when it is okay for a person to refuse to **cooperate** with the police? If so, when? If not, why do you believe that total **cooperation** with the police is necessary?
5. How would you **react** if your best friend borrowed \$50 from you and never returned it? Do you think that it would be better to have a strong **reaction** or to forget about it?