

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 1

CONTEXT: Amazing Nature

The Humpback: A Whale of a Singer

Last winter, my family and I went on a whale watch. The small boat we were in moved slowly across the water. Suddenly, a huge humpback whale sprang from the water, curved its back, and disappeared into the waves. When it was underwater, we could hear it singing. How? The boat had an underwater microphone called a *hydrophone*, which picked up sounds from deep in the water.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about humpback whales. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used.

definite	descendant	majority	reliable	twilight
deny	doubtful	navigator	symbol	vivid

EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting

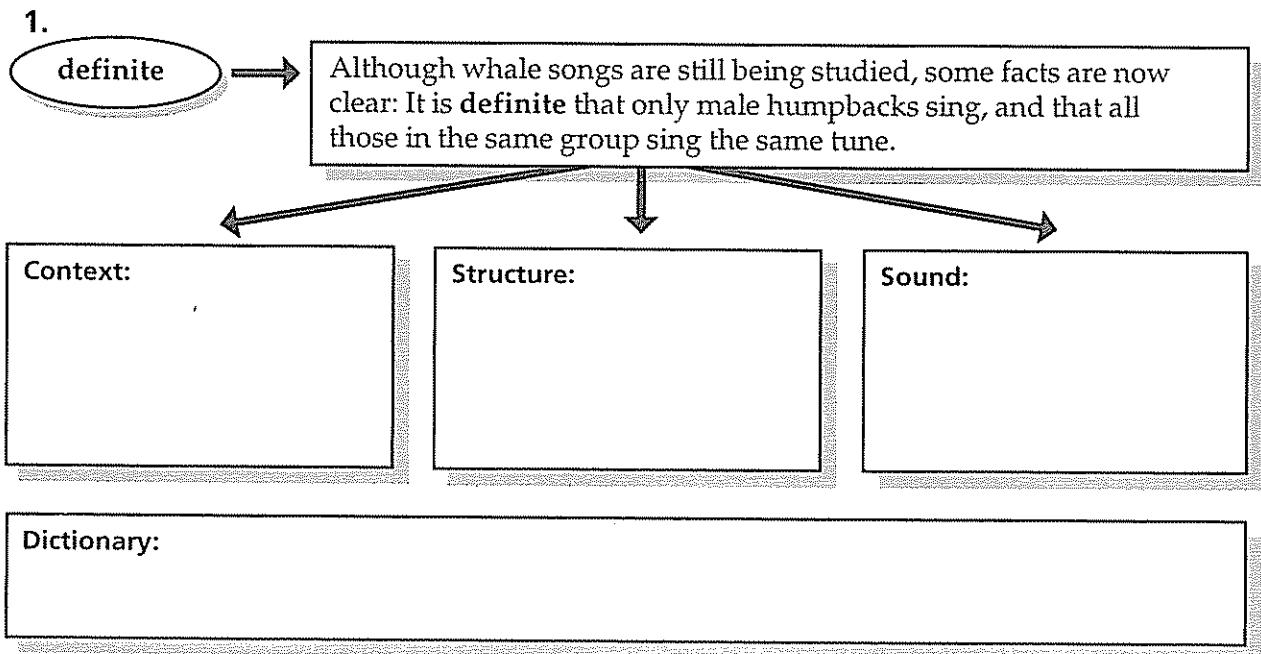
Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

definite

Although whale songs are still being studied, some facts are now clear: It is **definite** that only male humpbacks sing, and that all those in the same group sing the same tune.



2.

deny

Whale experts do not **deny** that it is still a mystery why the complicated arrangement of certain tones and sounds changes from year to year.

3.

doubtful

I had heard about whale songs, but when the guide said we would hear them, I was **doubtful**. How could that possibly happen?

4.

reliable

Yet, we felt that the people in charge of the whale watch were **reliable**. We knew we could depend on them for accurate information.

5.

navigator

The **navigator** of our boat talked to us as he directed our course to keep us within sight of the humpback. He told us that baleen whales are some of the largest animals in the world.

6.

majority

Baleen whales, including the humpback, are toothless. However, more than half—that is, the **majority**—of whale species have teeth.

7.

descendant

Humpbacks spend their summers in polar waters and their winters in warm seas, where their calves are born. As the older humpbacks die off, their **descendants** continue to return to the same areas year after year.

8.

twilight

Just after sunset, we headed back to shore. In the **twilight**, I looked at the water for one last sight of the magnificent whale we had been watching.

9.

symbol

Once, whales represented only economic gain. Now many people see the whale as a **symbol** of the need for humans to protect the oceans' environment. Whales stand for the beauty and wonder of all ocean life.

10.

vivid

Seeing and hearing the humpback is one of the most **vivid** experiences of my life. Because it is so unforgettable, I am going to do all that I can to help protect whales from extinction.

EXERCISE 2**Context Clues** 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

____ 11. word: _____
n. more than half the total; the greater part

____ 12. word: _____
adj. having limits; certain

____ 13. word: _____
n. something that stands for or represents something else

____ 14. word: _____
adj. not clear; uncertain

____ 15. word: _____
n. a person who steers or directs a ship or an aircraft

____ 16. word: _____
adj. lively; bright; clearly perceived by the mind

____ 17. word: _____
v. to refuse to give; to reject as untrue

____ 18. word: _____
n. the period from sunset to dark;
adj. pertaining to the period from sunset to dark

____ 19. word: _____
n. something that comes from an earlier form; offspring

____ 20. word: _____
adj. dependable; trustworthy

COLUMN B

(A) Whales are warmblooded marine mammals. They are the descendants of land mammals that adapted to the sea millions of years ago.

(B) In polar waters each humpback eats over four thousand pounds of food a day. The majority of this food is tiny sea creatures.

(C) I had hoped that while the sun was still up, before twilight, I would see a mother humpback with a calf, but none were visible.

(D) Laws protect whales by setting a **definite** distance the watchers must stay from the whales. The boats must not cross over the set boundary.

(E) When people observe the humpbacks, they carry away **vivid** impressions clearly locked in their memories.

(F) **Reliable**, or trustworthy, researchers say that whaling has reduced the numbers of whales, including the humpback, to dangerously low levels.

(G) It is still **doubtful**, even with bans on most whaling, whether some species will survive. No one knows for sure.

(H) When our class formed an environmental club, I didn't **deny** them the use of my articles and books about humpbacks. Now everyone in the club uses them.

(I) The club members voted to use the humpback as a **symbol** to represent the club's support of endangered wildlife.

(J) One of our members has decided to become a **navigator** and to work on a ship that tracks whales for a wildlife-protection organization.

EXERCISE 3**Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings** 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. a **vivid** ocean sunset

- (A) light
- (B) bright
- (C) dark
- (D) dull

22. the ship's **navigator**

- (A) person who steers the ship
- (B) anyone who goes on a ship
- (C) whale-watching guide
- (D) person who is lost

23. the **majority** of the whale watchers

- (A) exactly half
- (B) less than half
- (C) every one
- (D) more than half

24. the **symbol** of ocean life

- (A) reality
- (B) interest
- (C) representative
- (D) character

25. a **definite** sign

- (A) important
- (B) certain
- (C) invisible
- (D) similar

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. the **twilight** cruise

- (A) between sunset and dark
- (B) the middle of the night
- (C) between sunrise and noon
- (D) rainy season

27. denied **bothering** the whales

- (A) rejected as untrue
- (B) admitted
- (C) continued
- (D) stopped

28. the **reliable** guide

- (A) trustworthy
- (B) honest
- (C) undependable
- (D) independent

29. the **descendants** of the humpbacks

- (A) ancestors
- (B) children
- (C) cousins
- (D) region

30. to be **doubtful** that whales could sing

- (A) amazed
- (B) suspicious
- (C) undecided
- (D) certain