

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 20

CONTEXT: People and Places

Island Hopping in the Caribbean

The Caribbean islands—Jamaica, Cuba, and Puerto Rico are the largest—are famous for colorful fish and coral and for rare tropical birds. Because the islands are separated from one another by water, each island has its own culture, history, and languages. People speak Spanish in Puerto Rico and Cuba, but French is spoken in Haiti. On the island of Aruba, people speak a language called Papiamento.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about the Caribbean islands. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

boast	disadvantage	exert	import	precipitation
contrast	eliminate	export	luscious	tradition

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.

boast

Carnival takes place on the island of Trinidad from late February to early March. Trinidadians **boast** about their Carnival, proudly claiming that it is the best celebration in the world.

Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

contrast

The lush vegetation of Trinidad forms a **contrast** to the dry, rocky landscape of Aruba. These islands, seven hundred miles apart, are very different.

3.

disadvantage

One **disadvantage** of Aruba's dry climate is that there is very little fresh water on the island.

4.

eliminate

The St. Vincent parrot is a rare bird that lives only on the island of St. Vincent. This species is in danger of extinction because the destruction of island forests threatens to **eliminate** the parrot's natural habitat.

5.

exert

Seasonal storms **exert** themselves on the islands of the Caribbean. Every year, hurricanes blow in forcefully from the Atlantic and strike the islands.

6.

export

Bananas, which are grown on many of the islands and sold all over the world, are a major Caribbean **export**.

7.

import

There are not many farms on the island of St. Eustatius. People who live on St. Eustatius must **import** most of their food from other places.

8.

luscious

Spices such as cinnamon are grown in the Caribbean and used in the delicious local dishes. These dishes are so **luscious** that people all over the world enjoy them.

9.

precipitation

On the beaches of Jamaica, the weather is almost always warm and clear. High in the Blue Mountains, however, there is much **precipitation** in the forms of both rain and snow.

10.

tradition

Brightly painted houses are a Caribbean **tradition**. People have believed for a long time that bright, cheerful colors bring good luck.

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: _____
v. to talk proudly about oneself; to brag

12. word: _____
v. to show differences between; *n.* a striking difference

13. word: _____
n. something brought in from another country or place; importance; *v.* to bring in goods from another country

14. word: _____
n. the handing down of stories, beliefs, or customs through generations; a custom

15. word: _____
n. a drawback; a handicap

16. word: _____
n. a bringing on suddenly; a sudden fall or rush; snow, rain, or sleet

17. word: _____
n. something sent to another place or country; *v.* to carry or send goods to another country for sale

18. word: _____
v. to put forth vigorously

19. word: _____
v. to take out, remove, get rid of

20. word: _____
adj. very pleasing to the tastes or smell; pleasing to the senses; lavishly adorned; excessively sweet

COLUMN B

(A) The relaxed life style of my cousins in the Virgin Islands is such a **contrast** to the hustle and bustle of my life here in New York City.

(B) My brother ran into the water at St. Thomas Beach in such a hurry that he did not notice the water was full of jellyfish. As a result of his **precipitation**, he was badly stung.

(C) Our cousins told us an old story about Sir Francis Drake. According to **tradition**, the explorer used Magen Bay Beach as a lookout.

(D) No doubt Drake discovered how **luscious** the Caribbean is. He may have preferred the warm, colorful islands to life in England.

(E) My uncle Marcus told me that tourism is of great **import** in the Virgin Islands. The economies of the islands depend on tourism.

(F) While some islanders do not like the tourism, it will probably never be eliminated because it is so important to the islands' economy.

(G) Although it is tempting just to relax, travelers should **exert** themselves to see the real life of the islands.

(H) The island of Grand Cayman **boasts** a sea turtle farm. To check the truth of this claim, we went to see the farm.

(I) Sea turtle meat is not usually **exported** to other countries. Instead, it is sold to restaurants on the island.

(J) A girl I met speaks English, Dutch, and Papiamento. She was surprised that I speak only one language. I told her that in New York it is not a **disadvantage** to know only English.

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. to boast about a skill

- (A) worry
- (B) talk
- (C) brag
- (D) know

24. heavy precipitation

- (A) a surprise
- (B) rainfall
- (C) evaporation
- (D) pressure

22. a Jamaican tradition

- (A) celebration
- (B) custom
- (C) culture
- (D) history

25. to export bananas

- (A) send to another country
- (B) return to the farmers
- (C) eat a great deal of
- (D) use as a medicine

23. to exert influence

- (A) maintain
- (B) put forth
- (C) demand
- (D) give away

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

26. a strong contrast

- (A) difference
- (B) dislike
- (C) similarity
- (D) opinion

29. the luscious peaches

- (A) rotten
- (B) forbidden
- (C) delicious
- (D) early

27. an unfortunate disadvantage

- (A) handicap
- (B) aid
- (C) disaster
- (D) inability

30. to eliminate a choice

- (A) keep
- (B) forget
- (C) think about
- (D) get rid of

28. to import oil

- (A) send to another country
- (B) offer for sale
- (C) increase the price of
- (D) set on fire