

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 21 CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment

Down to the Sea with Jacques Cousteau

Jacques Cousteau (1910–1997), a French underwater explorer, became interested in the sea during his service in the French Navy. His friendship with two other sailors led to the three men working together for many years. They studied the shark and the whale, dove for sunken treasure, and explored a coral sea. What made these adventures possible was a ship named *Calypso* and the scuba tank that Cousteau and Emile Gagnan invented.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Cousteau's ship, *Calypso*. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

appreciate	entertain	inform	mammoth	theme
braille	genuine	inspiration	text	visual

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.

appreciate

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The *Calypso* was an old United States minesweeper being used as a ferry after World War II. Cousteau learned to appreciate such a vessel. He understood the worth of a ship that could hold a crew of thirty people, a helicopter, and a hot-air balloon.

Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

mammoth

A 139-foot-long ship may seem **mammoth** to some. *Calypso* is small compared to many other ships, although it has two engines, a repair workshop, and walk-in refrigerators.

3.

braille

Cousteau's adventures in the *Calypso* helped to open the sea to people much as the system of **braille** opened the world of books to the blind.

4.

inspiration

Cousteau's work aboard *Calypso* is an **inspiration** to amateurs and scientists alike. He had a strong influence on others who wished to explore the sea.

5.

genuine

Cousteau's team acquired a two-person exploration submarine. It had no propeller, and it could take divers to depths of 1150 feet—a chance for some **genuine** adventure.

6.

text

In 1967, *Calypso* set out on a three-year expedition. During this trip, the first twelve films of the TV series, *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, were filmed. A **text**, or written work, about the sea may be interesting, but a film is especially gripping.

7.

entertain

Cousteau **entertained** audiences with his award-winning movies about the sea. The films *The Silent World* and *World Without Sun* held the interest of thousands of viewers.

8.

inform

The films made by the crew of *Calypso* have served to **inform** viewers about underwater life. Audiences learned about life forms they never knew existed.

9.

theme

Cousteau has also written books about his adventures. The **theme**, or subject, of his work is the fascinating world beneath the sea. *Diving Companions*, for example, talks about two sea lions living aboard *Calypso*.

10.

visual

The many photographs in Cousteau's books are a **visual** treat for the reader.

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: _____ :
adj. connected with sight; having qualities that can be seen

_____ 12. word: _____ :
n. a topic, subject, or main idea of a written work, sermon, speech, and so on

_____ 13. word: _____ :
v. to give knowledge of something to; to tell someone something

_____ 14. word: _____ :
n. an inhaling; a strong influence; a stimulus to creativity

_____ 15. word: _____ :
n. a type of extinct elephant; *adj.* huge

_____ 16. word: _____ :
adj. real; true; authentic; honest

_____ 17. word: _____ :
v. to hold the interest of and give pleasure to; to amuse; to think about or consider; to give hospitality to guests

_____ 18. word: _____ :
n. a written work; the main part of a piece of writing

_____ 19. word: _____ :
v. to think well of; to understand; to recognize the worth of and to be grateful for; to raise the price or value of

_____ 20. word: _____ :
n. a system of writing for the blind in which the fingers are used to read

COLUMN B

(A) I dive off *Calypso*. I swim underwater with a scuba tank on my back. "Is this a **genuine** experience? Am I really here?" I ask myself.

(B) "That sea elephant over there reminds me of the long-extinct **mammoth**, a woolly elephant. Am I dreaming?"

(C) I **appreciate** all the tips and advice that the crew gave me. I am grateful because it is my first solo dive. I begin to adjust to the light. Many strange sights float past me.

(D) The crew **informed** me just last night that I had to find the lost treasure. Why didn't they tell me sooner?

(E) Suddenly, a shark crosses my path. I **entertain** the idea of going back to the surface and to the safety of the ship. Then I think about the importance of my mission.

(F) My dive has been an **inspiration** to me. I suddenly feel creative! I am going to write a book about my adventures.

(G) What will my book be about? The theme will be the wonders of the sea, but its exact title will have to wait until later.

(H) My sister will insist that my book be put into **braille**, a system of writing that she can read by touch.

(I) The **text**, or the words, of the book will be easy to put into braille with a special typewriter.

(J) The **visual** part of the book, the photographs and drawings I make, will appear in full color. I wake up. . . . Cousteau's book, *The Shark: Splendid Savage of the Sea*, lies next to my bed. I guess it was only a dream.

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. an **inspiration** to us
 (A) burden
 (B) comfort
 (C) bitter disappointment
 (D) strong influence

22. a **visual** image
 (A) painted
 (B) something that can be seen
 (C) connected with touch
 (D) invisible to the human eye

23. the **theme** of the story
 (A) last paragraph
 (B) hidden threat
 (C) main idea
 (D) level of interest

24. to **read** braille
 (A) a system of writing for the blind
 (B) a very ancient form of writing
 (C) a military code
 (D) sign language

25. to **read** the text
 (A) written work
 (B) title
 (C) introduction
 (D) sign language

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 **mammoth** fish
 (A) gentle
 (B) tiny
 (C) intelligent
 (D) endangered

27. to **appreciate** someone's help
 (A) scorn
 (B) understand
 (C) protect
 (D) imagine

28. to be **entertained** by dolphins
 (A) interested
 (B) studied
 (C) photographed
 (D) bored

29. a **genuine** interest
 (A) valuable
 (B) strong
 (C) fake
 (D) real

30. to **inform** the captain
 (A) withhold facts from
 (B) speak to quietly
 (C) answer directly
 (D) discuss openly with