

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN**Lesson 27** **CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment*****Pandas: Cute Is Not Everything***

Giant pandas are adorable, with black ears, noses, and eye patches. If you have seen one you are lucky, for they are very rare. Pandas live in the mountain forests of China, where they eat mostly bamboo shoots. There used to be thousands of them. Today, only about a thousand wild pandas live in a small area. China gave two pandas—Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing—to the United States. Both lived at the National Zoo until they died in the 1990s. The Chinese government has also loaned pandas to a few U.S. wildlife parks.

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

captivity eavesdrop prey provoke threat
 decrease migrate prohibit survival tragedy

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.

captivity

Only a few giant pandas live in **captivity** today. Although they are not free, they are safe and protected.



Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

decrease

The number of giant pandas in the wild has decreased. It has fallen to about one thousand and may continue to fall.

3.

eavesdrop

Scientists use radio collars to keep track of pandas. The radios do not allow scientists to eavesdrop on, or hear, the bears, only to locate them.

4.

prey

Giant pandas have been the prey of hunters, who have shot them for their fur.

5.

provoke

What could provoke hunters to kill pandas? The answer is obvious: As long as people are willing to buy their fur, the pandas will be in danger.

6.

prohibit

The Chinese government now prohibits hunting the giant panda. It wants to prevent hunters from wiping out the pandas.

7.

threat

People are a threat to the giant pandas in several ways. Even if people do not hunt the animals, they can cause great harm to them by cutting down forests.

8.

survival

The survival of giant pandas in the wild depends on the supply of bamboo. When the bamboo is cut down, many pandas will die of starvation.

9.

migrate

Pandas have had to migrate as forests have been cut. If they do not move from place to place, they are not able to find food.

10.

tragedy

It is always a tragedy when a panda dies in the wild. Because there are so few pandas, the death of a young panda is an even worse disaster.

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. to listen secretly to a private conversation

_____ 12. word: _____
n. imprisonment; the condition of being held against one's will

_____ 13. word: _____
n. the act or fact of living or existing

_____ 14. word: _____
n. an animal hunted and killed for food by another animal; a person or thing that is hunted; *v.* to hunt or kill for food; to rob; to weigh heavily (upon)

_____ 15. word: _____
v. to become smaller; to lessen; *n.* a lessening

_____ 16. word: _____
n. a statement or action of intended harm; an indication of danger

_____ 17. word: _____
v. to refuse to permit; to prevent

_____ 18. word: _____
n. an event bringing great suffering; a disaster; a serious play about such events

_____ 19. word: _____
v. to cause action; to stir up feelings; to irritate

_____ 20. word: _____
v. to move from one place to another

COLUMN B

(A) The dangers facing the giant pandas prey on, or disturb, the minds of environmentalists.

(B) The **survival** of the giant pandas cannot be taken for granted. Without our help, they may not live.

(C) Public awareness of the pandas' situation should **provoke** the necessary action to save them. Awareness is always the first step in causing changes to occur.

(D) When the pandas run out of food, they sometimes **migrate** from the mountain forests to farmland to find more to eat.

(E) A **decrease**, or decline, of human settlements in the mountains would probably help the giant pandas.

(F) Hungry wild pandas are sometimes captured and fed to **prohibit** them from starving.

(G) The Chinese government has made **threats** to those who think about hunting pandas. The government warns that hunters will be severely punished.

(H) About forty giant pandas live in **captivity** around the world. If they could choose, I am sure they would rather live in freedom in the mountain forests of China!

(I) The story of the little panda cub crushed by its mother is very sad. It is a subject on which a playwright could base a **tragedy**.

(J) At wildlife parks with pandas, if you **eavesdrop**, you can always overhear people talk about how cute the bears are.

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. the captivity of endangered species	24. the lion preys
(A) freedom	(A) escapes
(B) health	(B) is killed
(C) imprisonment	(C) sleeps
(D) value	(D) hunts
22. to eavesdrop on the conversation	25. a decrease in the number of pandas
(A) listen	(A) mistake
(B) interrupt	(B) lessening
(C) whisper	(C) increase
(D) repeat	(D) change
23. to provoke another	
(A) produce	
(B) deny	
(C) cease	
(D) annoy	

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

26. to make a threat	29. survival in zoos
(A) example	(A) dying off
(B) assurance	(B) existing
(C) disaster	(C) breeding
(D) statement	(D) playing
27. to migrate in search of food	30. the tragedy of the rare panda
(A) move from place to place	(A) disaster
(B) make noises	(B) story
(C) stay in one place	(C) death
(D) roll over logs	(D) comedy
28. to prohibit hunting	
(A) expect	
(B) allow	
(C) dislike	
(D) license	