

## Word List

1. **occur** – v – to happen, especially without being planned first

- The fire at my neighbor's house occurred in the afternoon.
- Earthquakes occur without warning.
- A solar eclipse will be occurring on Monday.

2. **concept** – n – an idea of how something is or how something should be done

- My friend has no concept of time—she always shows up at least half an hour late for our meetings.
- I don't have any background in physics, so I only understand very basic concepts of physics.
- (adjective form) The plans for the new community center in my town are still in the conceptual stage. The committee is still thinking about many ideas and haven't decided exactly how the center will be designed.

3. **major** – adj – very large or important

antonym = minor

- There is a major storm heading for Chicago that is supposed to bring a lot of rain and very heavy winds.
- I had to go home early from work yesterday because I had a major headache.
- The construction on the highway caused major traffic problems.

4. **distinction** – n – a clear difference between things

- Laws in the U.S. usually draw a distinction between adults and children. Different laws apply to adults and children.
- There is a distinction between getting a job done and doing a job well.
- (adjective form) African and Asian elephants are distinct species. They are both types of elephants, but they have important differences.

5. **factor** – n – one of several things that influence or cause a situation

- My past teaching experience was a key factor in being hired for this position.
- One factor in the failure of the banks was that they had given mortgages to people who couldn't pay them.

6. **potential** – adj – likely to develop in the future

- Television advertising tries to reach potential customers, people who haven't bought the product before but who might buy it in the future.
- When a shopping mall opens next spring in my town, there will be many potential jobs.
- You can avoid potential problems with your car if you change the oil regularly.

7. **regulation** – n – an official rule or order

- At most factories, there are safety regulations that keep the work environment as safe as possible for the workers.
- It takes a long time to become a naturalized U.S. citizen because there are so many rules and regulations.

8. **achieve** – v – to succeed in getting a good result or in doing something you want

synonym = accomplish

- My niece achieved very good grades in high school, so she was given a scholarship for college.
- The President can't always achieve what he wants because Congress may not agree.
- I achieved my goal to save \$600 last year. I stuck to my budget and I saved \$50 every month.

9. **instance** – n – an example

for instance = for example

## Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

- I like many kinds of food. For instance, I like Greek, Indian, Mexican, Italian and Thai food.
- There are many ways I try to help the environment. For instance, I recycle, I pick up garbage along my street, I compost my vegetable scraps, and I limit my driving.

### 10. **initial** – adj – happening at the beginning

synonym = first

antonym = last, final

- In the initial weeks of my new job, my co-workers took extra time to show me how to do things.
- My initial reaction to the book was negative, but I kept reading and I liked it in the end.

The words on this list were taken from sublists one, two and three of the Academic Word List,

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/>

## Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

### Group 1 - Introducing new words using the 3-step process (Explicit Instruction)

Practice using some of the vocabulary words using the 3 step process.

1. Tell the meaning of the word in terms the students can understand.
2. Model use of the word in relatable contexts.
3. Provide an open-ended prompt for students to answer so that they use the word in a context that relates to them.

Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

Group 2 - Sentence completions

*Directions: Complete each sentence.*

1. One government *regulation* that has helped me is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Most bad weather *occurs* during \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. A *major* challenge in my life is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. A *distinction* between adults and children is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. One *factor* I considered when I enrolled in school was \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

6. When the teacher asks me to read aloud in class, my *initial* feeling is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. I want to *achieve* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

8. I have the *potential* to be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

9. One *concept* I disagree with is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

10. If I ran the world, I'd make some changes. For *instance*, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

Group 3 - Fill in the blank (with sentences and with paragraphs)

*Directions: Fill in a word from the list to complete each sentence. Each word can be used only once.*

achieve	factor	major
concept	initial	occur
distinction	instance	potential
		regulation

1. Global warming is a key \_\_\_\_\_ in why there are more hurricanes.
2. There are a lot of government \_\_\_\_\_ for becoming an American citizen.
3. With two year olds, you never know when a tantrum is going to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. There are strong \_\_\_\_\_ between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party.
5. When our basement flooded, we had \_\_\_\_\_ repairs to make.
6. We need to reduce how much gas we use. For \_\_\_\_\_, we can replace our big cars with smaller cars that use less gasoline.
7. I have a problem understanding many \_\_\_\_\_ in physics because I never took a physics class in school.
8. My \_\_\_\_\_ thought was to quit my job when I had problems on my first day, but then I changed my mind.
9. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ my goal, I must work very hard.
10. He has the \_\_\_\_\_ to get his GED.

Group 4: Who needs to know this word?

## Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

Choose a word from the list and ask, "Who needs to know this word?"

Students respond with a person who would need to know the word for work or everyday use, and explain why

Important to make sure students include the reason why the person needs to know the word.

Group 5: Read and respond

Use the paragraph to develop questions that contain the vocabulary words. The vocabulary words are in the questions, but not necessarily in the passage.

Why Are Barrier Islands Important? (from Readworks.org)

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water. Islands are located all over the world in oceans, rivers, and lakes. Barrier islands are special. They are located in the ocean, near the mainland. One area where barrier islands can be found is in the Gulf of Mexico.

Barrier islands can form in different ways, depending on the area. In the Gulf of Mexico, ocean waves push dirt and sand toward land. Some of the dirt and sand gets pulled back as waves pull back from the beach. When enough dirt and sand get pushed to the same spot, a barrier island forms. Through this process, barrier islands can change and even move.

Barrier islands are important to wildlife. Marine animals like oysters, crabs, and shrimp may live along the islands. Birds like pelicans, terns, and gulls live on the islands and raise chicks. Migrating birds depend on the islands too. Barrier islands are also important to people. The islands help protect the mainland from big storms. The islands actually absorb energy from storms. When the storms arrive on the mainland, they have less power and do less harm. But sometimes, big storms such as hurricanes destroy barrier islands. That can be bad news for animals and for people.

Along the coast of Louisiana, some barrier islands are in trouble. These islands were first formed partly by dirt and sand that came from the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It used to push dirt into the ocean, also. But after big storms caused flooding in the city of New Orleans, engineers worked to change the flow of the water. The changes they made have helped stop some flooding. But the changes also keep dirt from flowing from the river into the ocean. Now, there's less dirt for the ocean waves to move. As a result, some of the barrier islands are disappearing. This worries the people who live along the coast. These people understand that barrier islands protect the mainland. If the islands all disappear, the coast will be in more danger when big storms happen.

People are working to add dirt and sand to some of the islands in the area. The ocean will keep moving dirt and sand along the barrier islands, too. With the



## Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

people's help, the ocean will have more dirt to move. The islands will remain in place, doing their important work. The birds and marine animals will continue to have homes. And barrier islands will keep protecting the coast.

Vocabulary Instruction Jigsaw Activity

Group 6: Yes/no/why?

*Directions: Answer each question with yes or no, then explain why.*

1. Are *major* government *regulations* meant to help people, not hurt them?
2. Do all wars *occur* because of *distinctions* between countries?
3. Is wanting to *achieve* something an important *factor* in meeting your goals?
4. Are there *instances* when *potential* problems cannot be prevented?
5. Are *initial concepts* always correct?