

Read Words in Context

READ!

Racers on Four Paws

Every March, teams of sled dogs **compete** in a special race called the Iditarod [I-dit-er-ohd]. They pull a sled over more than a thousand miles of ice and snow across Alaska from Anchorage to Nome. The fastest team wins.

Winning depends on having a good team of dogs. Most drivers **prefer** huskies, since this breed of dog has a lot of energy. A race as hard as the Iditarod would **exhaust** weaker dogs.

The dogs and their human drivers train all year. They need to **maintain** good health and fitness so that they're ready for this difficult race.

The dog at the head of the team is the lead dog. During the race, drivers **assume** that their lead dog will follow their commands right away. If the lead dog **hesitates**, the other dogs will be confused. They might become upset or **annoyed**.

Drivers are careful not to **endanger** the dogs. They look for dangerous patches of ice. They watch the team for signs of trouble. Limping or a drooping head may **indicate** that a dog is injured or sick. The driver must not **neglect** a dog that needs help.

There are several rest stops along the way. At a rest stop, the driver will **release** the dogs from their harnesses. The driver and dogs **seize** the opportunity to eat and rest. The resting time **relieves** the lead dog from its job for a while.

After this rest, the team gets back to the race and **advances** over the icy trail. The first teams may reach the finish line in about ten days.

Dog-sled racing **fascinates** many people. They become fans of one driver and team and are there every year to cheer them on!



Vocabulary Words

advance	indicate
annoy	maintain
assume	neglect
compete	prefer
endanger	release
exhaust	relieve
fascinate	seize
hesitate	

Word Learning Tip!

A **verb** is a word that shows actions or feelings. Often a verb comes right after a noun or pronoun. Sometimes you can spot a verb because it ends in *-s*, *-ed*, or *-ing*. Sometimes a verb has a helping word such as *may*, *can*, *could*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, or *would* in front of it. You can use these clues to learn new words.

Vocabulary Building Strategy

Use Context Clues When you come across a verb you do not know, look at the context. Often, you will find clues that help you understand what someone or something is doing or feeling. These clues will help you determine the meaning of the unfamiliar verb.

Connect Words and Meanings

advance	compete	fascinate	maintain	release
annoy	endanger	hesitate	neglect	relieve
assume	exhaust	indicate	prefer	seize

Directions Read each definition below. Circle the word that matches each definition. You may use the glossary to help you.

- to take away a problem or chore or to ease someone's trouble or pain

compete	neglect	relieve
---------	---------	---------
- to make someone feel angry or upset or lose patience

seize	annoy	prefer
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- to make very tired

neglect	compete	exhaust
---------	---------	---------
- to like one thing better than another

advance	assume	prefer
---------	--------	--------
- to suppose that something is true or will happen without checking it

neglect	assume	relieve
---------	--------	---------
- to free something or someone

exhaust	release	advance
---------	---------	---------
- to try hard to do better than others at a task or in a race or other contest

compete	neglect	exhaust
---------	---------	---------
- to show or point out something

hesitate	maintain	indicate
----------	----------	----------
- to move forward toward a goal

relieve	assume	advance
---------	--------	---------
- to attract and hold someone's attention

prefer	fascinate	annoy
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Connect More Words and Meanings

advance	compete	fascinate	maintain	release
annoy	endanger	hesitate	neglect	relieve
assume	exhaust	indicate	prefer	seize

Directions Continue the activity. Read each definition below. Circle the word that matches each definition. You may use the glossary to help you.

- 11.** to keep something in good condition or continue to do something

maintain

indicate

hesitate

- 12.** to grab or take hold of something quickly or suddenly

relieve

annoy

seize

- 13.** to put in a dangerous or risky situation

maintain

endanger

hesitate

- 14.** to pause before you do something, or to not do something right away

indicate

hesitate

maintain

- 15.** to fail to take care of someone or something

neglect

advance

relieve

BONUS Write three sentences using three different vocabulary words.

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____



Use Verbs to Ask and Answer Riddles Write "What Am I?" riddles to stump your classmates. Select a person or thing. Then write statements that tell what this person or thing does. For example: *I help sailors. I indicate what way to go in the dark. What am I?* (Answer: A lighthouse) Use five vocabulary words and five new verbs in your riddles.