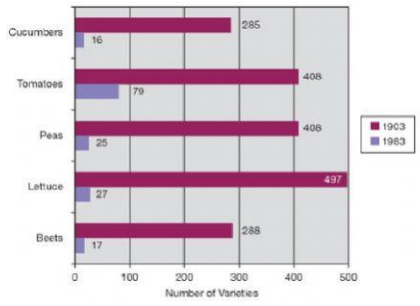
A | **Meaning from Context.** Read and listen to the information about the world's food supply. Notice the words in **blue**. These are the words you will hear and use in Lesson A.



The world population is now over seven billion people. As a result, there is an **intense** need for additional food. Instead of using **conventional** farming methods, many large farms now only plant one crop such as corn, wheat, or rice. Farmers plant this crop over very large areas. This type of agriculture is known as *monoculture*. The benefit of monoculture is to maximize the harvest,[1] but there are experts who say that the benefit is **offset** by its negative effects.

One serious problem of monoculture is the effect it has had on the number of vegetable varieties grown by farmers. The number of vegetable varieties has greatly **diminished** since 1903, and many crop species no longer exist. In the future, if one of the plants farmers rely on is destroyed **via** disease or climate change, this could cause major problems in the world's food supply. Therefore, some scientists are now trying to **modify** the genes of other vegetables to recreate the lost vegetable varieties.

A man holds two jars of peas at a seed bank in Norway.



It's important to **monitor** and save the vegetable varieties that remain. Many experts **advocate** setting up "seed banks" to collect and keep the seeds of plants that are no longer planted by farmers. Many farmers and scientists **devote** themselves to the important work of setting up these seed banks. Today there are about 1400 of them around the world. The vegetable seeds inside these seed banks could be extremely important to the **welfare** of the people on earth.

[1]The **harvest** is the gathering of the crop or food that is grown on a farm.

B | Write each word in **blue** from exercise **A** next to its definition.

1. _____ (v.) to balance or compensate
2. _____ (v.) to spend your time or energy on a task
3. _____ (prep.) with the help of another means or person
4. _____ (v.) to change something slightly, usually to improve it
5. _____ (v.) to support a plan or action and recommend it publicly
6. _____ (n.) the health, comfort, and happiness of a group or a person
7. _____ (adj.) ordinary and traditional
8. _____ (adj.) very great or extreme in strength or degree
9. _____ (v.) to watch or keep track of; to check regularly
10. _____ (v.) became smaller in size, number, or importance

A | Complete the sentences with the correct form of a word from the box.

advocate	devote	intense	monitor	via
conventional	diminish	modify	offset	welfare

1. Scientists recently _____ the genes of an apple tree to grow bigger apples. They did this _____ a technology called genetic modification.
2. The new type of apples are three times the size of _____ ones.
3. The scientists don't _____ selling the new type of apple tree yet because more tests need to be done.
4. The scientists have _____ themselves to testing the apples for the next few months.
5. Representatives from agricultural companies are closely _____ the tests.
6. Several food safety groups expressed _____ opposition to the trees, saying that they were dangerous. Scientists hope that the test results will _____ these worries.
7. The agricultural companies and their scientists insisted that there was no danger, and that they always keep the _____ of the public in mind.
8. The companies offered a large sum of money to _____ the costs of any health-related damage their new apple trees might cause.

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