

TASK: Read the target words. Practice using them by means of the exercises presented here.

LESSON **14**

Anthropology

Target Words

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. assimilate | 6. relic |
| 2. cremation | 7. rite |
| 3. domesticate | 8. ritually |
| 4. folklore | 9. saga |
| 5. fossilize | 10. vestige |

Definitions and Samples

- 1. assimilate** *v.* To consume and incorporate; to become similar

Not all of the overseas students could **assimilate** into the rigidly controlled school.

Usage tips **Assimilate** is often followed by *into*.

Parts of speech assimilation *n*
- 2. cremation** *n.* The act of burning the dead

Cremation is particularly common in Japan, where land for burial is very limited.

Parts of speech cremate *v*
- 3. domesticate** *v.* To make something suitable for being in a home

The Barnes family hoped to **domesticate** the tiger, but their neighbors were skeptical.

Usage tips The object of **domesticate** is usually a plant or animal.

Parts of speech domestic *adj*
- 4. folklore** *n.* Traditional myths of a people transmitted orally

Through **folklore**, archaeologists have learned about the migration of Native Americans in North America.

Parts of speech folkloric *adj*
- 5. fossilize** *v.* To become preserved in clay or stone or ash after death, so that a natural record is left of the original organism; to become rigid and stuck in old ways

The dinosaur eggs had **fossilized** over thousands of years.

Parts of speech fossilization *n*, fossil *n*
- 6. relic** *n.* Something left from a long-ago culture, time period, or person

Relics of the war can still be found in the sand dunes along this shore.

7. **rite** *n.* A ceremony meant to achieve a certain purpose
Many cultures have fertility **rites** that supposedly make it more likely for women to bear children.

8. **ritually** *adv.* As part of a traditional ceremony or habit
The children **ritually** kissed their parents on the cheek before bed.

Parts of speech ritual *n.*, ritual *adj.*

9. **saga** *n.* A long story about important events long ago
Many American families tell **sagas** about their ancestors' arrival in the United States.

10. **vestige** *n.* A visible trace that something once existed
The wilted flowers were the only **vestige** of their romantic weekend.

TOEFL Prep I Choose the word from the list that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence. Write it in the blank.

assimilate cremation domesticate folklore ritual

- _____ 1. In many cultures around the world, young boys are circumcised in a traditional ceremony.
- _____ 2. It is difficult to tame a bird that was born in the wild.
- _____ 3. Based on the oral legends about the fire, researchers estimate that about half of the townspeople died in the blaze.
- _____ 4. After the burning of the body, the remaining bits of bone are transferred to a large urn.
- _____ 5. Her husband could never fit into her family's way of life.

TOEFL Prep II Write the best word next to each definition. Use each word only once.

fossilize relic rite saga vestige

- _____ 1. to harden after death
- _____ 2. a customary act
- _____ 3. a memento
- _____ 4. something remaining from the past
- _____ 5. a long story

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

The aborigines of Australia may have been some of the first people on the planet. Recent discoveries of *relics*, including stone tools, show that

humans lived near Penrith, New South Wales, about 47,000 years ago. Australian aborigines migrated from northern lands by sea, when the water passages were narrower than they are today. This is the first evidence of sea travel by prehistoric humans. The *saga* of this water passing survives in modern-day aboriginal *folklore*. To put this in perspective, remember that 50,000 years ago, humans were nomadic. Early aborigines did not cultivate crops, and in Australia at the time there were no animals that could be *domesticated*. No one knows how long it took aboriginal people to reach Australia, but archaeologists are searching through ancient campsites for *vestiges* of their early lifestyle. *Fossilized* remains indicate that these nomadic people not only gathered food from the land, but they also subsisted on meat from large animals that no longer exist today. As part of their hunting tradition, aborigines *ritually* covered themselves in mud to mask their own scent or for camouflage. Aboriginal society marked the major events of life with *rites* such as circumcision, marriage, and *cremation*. Older people were revered and cared for as great sources of wisdom. When Westerners arrived in Australia in 1788, the 300,000 aborigines who lived there were not eager to *assimilate* their ways. In the following years, disease, loss of land, and loss of identity shaped the aborigines' history perhaps as much as their first prehistoric crossing from the north.

Bonus Structure—
To put this in perspective means "to give some background information."

1. Which sentence best expresses the essential information in this passage?
 - a. Australian aborigines were some of the Earth's first people.
 - b. White explorers did not respect aboriginal culture.
 - c. Australian aborigines probably migrated from Africa.
 - d. The organization and functioning of aboriginal society is mostly unknown.
2. In this passage, the word *ritually* is closest in meaning to
 - a. regularly
 - b. ignorantly
 - c. superstitiously
 - d. dramatically

LESSON

15

Social Inequality

Target Words

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. amend | 6. discriminate |
| 2. biased | 7. notion |
| 3. burden | 8. oppress |
| 4. counter | 9. paradigm |
| 5. de facto | 10. prejudiced |

Definitions and Samples

1. **amend** *v.* To change for the better

The residents voted to **amend** their neighborhood policy on fences.

Parts of speech amendment *n*

2. **biased** *adj.* Leaning unfairly in one direction

Her newspaper article was criticized for being heavily **biased** toward the mayor's proposal.

Parts of speech bias *n*

3. **burden** *n.* Something that is carried; a source of stress or worry

The donkey walked slowly under the **burden** of its heavy load.

The failing company faced the **burden** of bad debts and a poor reputation.

Parts of speech burden *v*

4. **counter** *v.* To act in opposition to; to offer in response

The hockey player **countered** the punch with a smashing blow from his hockey stick.

Jane **countered** every accusation with a specific example of her achievements.

Parts of speech counter *n*, counter *adj*

5. **de facto** *adj.* Truly doing a job, even if not officially

Popular support established the Citizens Party as the **de facto** government.

Parts of speech de facto *adv*

6. **discriminate** To choose carefully among options

The governor wisely **discriminated** between urgent issues and those that could wait.

Parts of speech discriminatory *adj*, discriminate *adj*

7. **notion** *n.* A belief; a fanciful impulse

The **notion** that older office equipment is unreliable is inaccurate.

One morning, she suddenly took the **notion** to paint her kitchen red.

Usage tips *Notion* can be followed by a *that* clause or a *to* phrase.

8. **oppress** *v.* To keep down by force; to weigh heavily on

Factory management **oppressed** workers through intimidation.

Parts of speech oppression *n*

9. **paradigm** *n.* A pattern or model; a set of assumptions

The usual **paradigm** for economic growth in developed countries does not apply to some poor nations.

Usage tips *Paradigm* is often followed by *for*.

10. **prejudiced** *adj.* Causing to judge prematurely and unfairly

Many consumers are **prejudiced** against commercial goods made in third-world countries.

Parts of speech prejudice *v*, prejudice *n*

TOEFL Prep I Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word from the list. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

biased counter de facto notion paradigm

1. During the trial, the defense lawyer _____ each claim with an opposite charge.
2. The basketball coach was naturally _____ toward the taller players.
3. After we saw the fancy car that the Jacobses bought, we gave up the _____ that they could not afford the basic things in life.
4. The battle was successful, as judged by the prevailing _____ of that era.
5. Even though Jovie was a cleaner, not a nanny, she was the baby's _____ caregiver because his parents worked so many hours.

TOEFL Prep II Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ 1. amend | (a) relieve |
| _____ 2. burden | (b) allow to operate freely |
| _____ 3. oppress | (c) leave as is |
| _____ 4. indiscriminately | (d) unbiased |
| _____ 5. prejudiced | (e) by making careful choices |

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Nelson Mandela devoted his life to fighting *prejudice* in South Africa. Mandela traveled his state, organizing a fight against *discriminatory* laws and racial *bias*. He encouraged civil disobedience as a tool against the *oppression* of Blacks. As deputy president of the African National Congress, Mandela encouraged his fellow citizens to challenge the prevailing *paradigm* of power. Mandela believed that prejudice *burdened* not only the oppressed, but also the oppressors.

The government *countered* Mandela's activities with a criminal conviction. Still, Mandela's *de facto* leadership gained him respect and authority among his fellow citizens. Mandela's courage and popularity worried **the ruling class**, who did not want to share power. What's more, they refused to amend the state's laws. So when Mandela returned from an overseas trip to gain support for his cause in 1962, he was arrested, jailed, and sentenced to life in prison for various crimes.

Bonus Structure—
The ruling class
means those who held power mostly because of the families they were born into.

This only fueled Mandela's *notions* about inequality and justice. He took his demands to jail, where he demanded the same dress and safety gear for Black prisoners as for White prisoners. After 28 years in prison, Mandela was released, returning immediately to public life. In 1994, he was elected the president of South Africa.

1. Which of the following best expresses the essential information of this passage?
 - a. Nelson Mandela used illegal means to achieve his ends.
 - b. Nelson Mandela fought prejudice in South Africa.
 - c. Nelson Mandela inspired Blacks around the world.
 - d. Nelson Mandela was driven primarily by his religious beliefs.
2. In the passage, the word amend is closest in meaning to
 - a. ignore
 - b. write down
 - c. change
 - d. discuss