
Dangerous Crossing

Lesson II Vocabulary



cramped

very small
and tightly
packed

- With all of the bunk beds in the room, it felt like a very **cramped** space.
- In storms, travelers were thrown about in their **cramped** and crowded quarters.

Which of these spaces are usually **cramped**?

- a gym locker
- a meadow
- a subway car at rush hour
- a broom closet
- a tennis court

distracted

- The bright signs **distracted** me while I was driving.
- The sunset **distracted** the sailor. She stopped working to admire the beauty of the sky.

to draw
attention away
from
something

thumbs up/thumbs down

Which of these things have **distracted** you from your homework?

- a friend
- the television
- a book
- a sibling

viewpoint

your unique thoughts and opinions

- From the **viewpoint** of the tour guide, the best city to visit is Portland, OR because of the food.
- From the **viewpoint** of the British, their navy was the best. The U.S. sailors had another opinion.

From my **viewpoint**, recess should be shorter so that we can spend more time in math class.

What is your **viewpoint**? Why?

"From my **viewpoint** recess should be _____ because _____."

shattered

to break into
pieces by
force; smash

- The window **shattered** during the windstorm.
- Divers still find the **shattered** remains of vessels that broke up and sank long ago.

Thumbs up/ Thumbs Down:

Which things would **shatter** if they were dropped?

- a flower
- a vase
- a cardboard box
- a coffee mug

surveyed

to look over the
parts or
features of
something

- The meerkats **surveyed** their habitat to make sure it was safe to be out.
- The soldiers **surveyed** the harbor, scanning for signs of the enemy navy.

What would it look like if you were one of the soldiers who **surveyed** the harbor, *looking for enemies?*

(give a gesture)

pressing

demanding
immediate
attention;
urgent

- It was a **pressing** moment when a tree fell near a family in the park.
- Sailing ships served a **pressing** need when they delivered urgently needed goods.

Think about things people do if something is **pressing**.
Decide which of these are **pressing**:

- raising your hand in class
- calling 9-1-1
- walking slowly

representatives

a person who
is chosen to
speak for
others

- **Representatives** of congress help make new laws in our country.
- Ben Franklin sailed to France to discuss politics as a **representative**, or a voice of the U.S.

What can you do to make sure your **representatives** know your opinions about issues?

"To make sure my **representatives** know my opinions about important issues I could

-----."

embark

to set out on
an adventure;
begin

- Lewis and Clark had to **embark** on their American expedition in 1804 from St. Louis.
- In the 1770's, it took courage to **embark**, or set sail, on an ocean voyage.

Why do you think it took courage to **embark** on an ocean voyage?

"It took a lot of courage to **embark** on an ocean voyage because_____."

bracing

positioning
yourself
against a
support

- Strong cables were **bracing** the building for added support.
- When the storm struck, the sailors were **bracing** themselves against the ship so they didn't get thrown overboard.

When was the last time you were **bracing** yourself to keep from falling?

"The last time I was **bracing** myself to keep from falling was when_____."

conduct

management and behavior

- The coach was responsible for the team's **conduct**, or behavior. Fighting was not tolerated.
- It was bad **conduct** when he chewed with his mouth open at the dinner table.

What is an example of good **conduct** at the dinner table?

"An example of good **conduct** at the dinner table would be _____"