

Life is full of unexpected delays. For example, have you ever found yourself in any of the following situations?

- Hoping that a knot of traffic will unsnarl soon
- Putting off writing a report until inspiration strikes
- Experiencing a flight delay at a crowded airport
- Waiting for a table at a busy restaurant

The words in this lesson refer to stops and delays and may help you to describe the postponements in everyday life.

WORD LIST

cessation
commence
deter
hamper
obstruction
preclude
procrastinate
scuttle
subside
thwart

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **cessation** (sĕ-sā'shən) *noun* The act of ceasing or stopping; a halt: a cessation of activity. (From the Latin word *cessare*, meaning "to stop")

Related Word **cease** *verb*

Example The *cessation* of the loud noise enabled Pam to continue studying.

1. _____

2. **commence** (kə-mĕns') *trans. verb* To begin; start. *intrans. verb* To come into existence; have a beginning. (From the Latin word *initiare*, meaning "to begin")

Related Word **commencement** *noun*

Example The race *commenced* after the referee dropped the flag.

2. _____

3. **deter** (dĭ-tūr') *trans. verb* To prevent or discourage from acting, as by means of fear or doubt. (From the Latin *de-*, meaning "away," and *terrere*, meaning "to frighten")

Related Word **deterrent** *noun*

Example The iciness of the roads *deterred* us from driving anywhere that day.

3. _____
See *thwart*.

4. **hamper** (hām'pər) *trans. verb* To prevent the free movement, action, or progress of; limit. *noun* A large basket, usually with a cover.

Example Chuck's tight shoes *hampered* his ability to dance.

4. _____
See *thwart*.

5. **obstruction** (əb-strūk'shən, ɔb-strūk'shən) *noun* An obstacle; something that blocks or gets in the way. (From the Latin *ob-*, meaning "against," and *struere*, meaning "to pile up")

Related Word **obstruct** *verb*

Example The rock landslide created an *obstruction* on the highway, blocking traffic on both sides.

6. **preclude** (prī-klōōd') *trans. verb* To make impossible or unlikely. (From the Latin *prae-*, meaning "before," and *cludere*, meaning "to close")

Example Excessively hot temperatures on the planet Venus *preclude* the possibility of there being any form of life there as we know it.

7. **procrastinate** (prō-krās'tə-nāt', prə-krās'tə-nāt') *intrans. verb* To put off doing something until a future time. *trans. verb* To postpone or delay needlessly. (From the Latin *pro-*, meaning "forward," and *cras*, meaning "tomorrow")

Related Words **procrastination** *noun*; **procrastinator** *noun*

Example Tom *procrastinated* about cutting the lawn until the grass was three inches high.

8. **scuttle** (sküt'l) *intrans. verb* To run hastily; scurry. *trans. verb* To sink (a ship) by cutting or opening a hole in (its hull).

Example The second grader *scuttled* across the yard and entered the classroom just before the tardy bell.

9. **subside** (səb-sīd') *intrans. verb* a. To sink to a lower or more normal level: *subsiding flood waters*. b. To become less active.

Example After Todd examined the test, his fear of not doing well *subsided*.

10. **thwart** (thwōrt) *trans. verb* To prevent from taking place; frustrate; block: *to thwart plans*. (From the Old Norse word *thvert*, meaning "across")

Example A swarm of bees *thwarted* our plans for a picnic.

5. _____
See *thwart*.

6. _____
See *thwart*.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____
USAGE NOTE: *Hamper* implies unintentional hindering that can be overcome; *obstruct* is a stronger term and connotes intentional hindering ("to block or fill [a passage] with obstacles; hinder"); *thwart* means "to prevent (something) from taking place *at all*." *Deter* implies prevention by emotional means, and *preclude* implies eliminating even the possibility of something's happening.