

The concepts of size and amount are ones that you use constantly. Whether you search the shelves of a supermarket for the most economical size of a product or you count your change from a dollar bill, you are dealing with matters of quantity, capacity, and proportion. The words in this lesson will help you to express your observations about degrees of smallness and largeness.

### WORD LIST

appreciable  
breadth  
copious  
gargantuan  
innumerable  
inordinate  
negligible  
paucity  
pittance  
proliferate

### DEFINITIONS

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

1. **appreciable** (ə-prē'shə-bəl) *adjective* Able to be estimated or measured; noticeable.

**Related Word** appreciably *adverb*

**Example** Since he began junior high school, Ian has been spending an *appreciable* portion of each evening doing homework.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **breadth** (brēdth) *noun* **a.** The distance or dimension from side to side of something, as distinguished from length or thickness; width. **b.** Wide extent or scope: *the breadth of her curiosity*. **c.** Freedom from narrowness of views, interests, or attitudes.

**Related Word** broad *adjective*

**Example** Russia is of such enormous *breadth* that it covers eleven time zones, an area almost half the world in width.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY CUE: *Breadth* refers to how *broad* something is.

3. **copious** (kō'pē-əs) *adjective* **a.** Large in quantity; abundant; containing an ample supply. **b.** Filled with matter, thoughts, or words; wordy. (From the Latin word *copia*, meaning "abundance")

**Related Words** copiously *adverb*; copiousness *noun*

**Example** Last summer the Dohertys had a *copious* harvest from their small vegetable garden.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **gargantuan** (gār-găn'chōō-ən) *adjective* Of immense size or volume; colossal; huge.

**Example** The *gargantuan* restaurant could seat over two thousand people.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. **innumerable** (i-nōō' mār-ə-bəl, i-nyōō' mār-ə-bəl) *adjective* Too many to be counted or numbered. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning "not," and *numerus*, meaning "number") 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** The small child's *innumerable* questions about the planetarium kept both of his parents busy.

6. **inordinate** (in-ôr' dn-īt) *adjective* Exceeding reasonable limits; excessive. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning "not," and *ordinatus*, meaning "orderly") 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** *inordinately* *adverb*

**Example** Five hours seems like an *inordinate* amount of time to spend writing a three-paragraph note.

7. **negligible** (nĕg'li-jə-bəl) *adjective* Amounting to very little; not important enough to be worth considering; trifling. (From the Latin words *nec*, meaning "not," and *legere*, meaning "to choose") 7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** *negligibly* *adverb*

**Example** We did little cross-country skiing last winter because of the *negligible* amount of snow.

8. **paucity** (pô'sə-tē) *noun* A short supply; smallness of quantity; scarcity. (From the Latin word *paucus*, meaning "few") 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
See *pittance*.

**Example** Because of a *paucity* of information about life in the first century, the author used her imagination to fill in the details of the historical novel.

9. **pittance** (pīt'ns) *noun* a. A small salary or amount of money. b. A small amount or portion. (From the Old French word *pitance*, meaning "donation to a monastery") 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
USAGE NOTE: A *pittance* is a small amount, while a *paucity* is a scarcity of something.

**Example** Since he received only a *pittance* for his repair work, Mr. Craig was forced to look for a second job.

10. **proliferate** (prə-lif' ə-rāt') *intrans. verb* a. To multiply, increase, or spread rapidly. b. To produce new growth or offspring rapidly and repeatedly. *trans. verb* To cause to grow or increase rapidly. (From the Latin word *proles*, meaning "offspring") 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Words** *proliferation* *noun*; *prolific* *adjective*

**Example** Specialized branches of medicine have *proliferated* during the last century.