

Many of the words we use today are derived from the names of famous people in history or characters in literature. For example, the word *sandwich* was inspired by an Englishman, John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich (1718–1792). The word originated after Montagu spent twenty-four hours at a gambling table, eating only pieces of cold beef *sandwiched* between slices of toast.

Each word in this lesson has its own interesting history with an entertaining story from the past. You can discover these stories for yourself in the reading passage of this lesson.

### WORD LIST

boycott  
galvanize  
jovial  
macadam  
maverick  
mentor  
nemesis  
odyssey  
quixotic  
tantalize

### DEFINITIONS

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

1. **boycott** (boi'köt') *trans. verb* To take part in an organized group refusal to use a product or service as a means of protest. *noun* An organized group refusal.

**Related Word** *boycotter noun*

**Example** A group of concerned environmentalists *boycotted* the store that sold pesticides.

2. **galvanize** (gäl'və-nīz') *trans. verb* a. To stir to action or awareness. b. To stimulate or shock with an electric current. c. To put a coating of zinc on iron or steel as protection against rust.

**Related Word** *galvanization noun*

**Example** A persuasive speech *galvanized* the audience into donating money to a worthy cause.

3. **jovial** (jō'vē-əl) *adjective* Full of fun and good cheer; sociable.

**Related Words** *joviality noun; jovially adverb*

**Example** Because of his *jovial* personality, Mark was usually the life of the party.

4. **macadam** (mə-kād'əm) *noun* a. A paving material made of layers of small stones that are packed together with asphalt or tar. b. A road surface that has been paved with layers of small stones.

**Related Word** *macadamize verb*

**Example** The road leading through the country village was paved with *macadam*.

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

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

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

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

5. **maverick** (mäv'ər-ĭk) *noun* a. A person who refuses to go along with the policies or views of his or her group; someone who is independent-minded; a nonconformist. b. An unbranded calf or colt. c. A horse or steer that has escaped from the herd. 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** Club members called Jessica a *maverick* after she criticized their new rules.

6. **mentor** (mĕn'tōr') *noun* A person depended upon for wise advice and guidance; a trusted counselor. 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** The professional athlete was a valuable *mentor* to the struggling high school football player.

7. **nemesis** (nĕm'ĭ-sĭs) *noun* a. Someone or something that is the source of just punishment. b. Just punishment for wrongdoing. c. An unbeatable rival. 7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** Freezing weather was the *nemesis* of the invading army.

8. **odyssey** (ŏd'ĭ-sĕ) *noun* a. A long, adventurous, wandering journey. b. An intellectual or spiritual quest. 8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** In the 1800s explorers went on *odysseys*, hoping to discover unknown islands in the Pacific Ocean.

9. **quixotic** (kwĭk-sŏt'ĭk) *adjective* Full of impractical ideas; idealistic. 9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** *quixotically* *adverb*

**Example** Ted's *quixotic* aunt encouraged her nephew to quit his job and travel through Europe.

10. **tantalize** (tän'tŏ-lĭz') *trans. verb* To tease or torment by presenting something desirable while it is out of reach. 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** *tantalizingly* *adverb*

**Example** Because Sarah was very hungry, the picture of the delicious meal *tantalized* her.