

Everything has a beginning. Our language supports this fact with a variety of words and expressions. How many of the following do you use to indicate the start of experiences in your life?

- Make a fresh start
- Dig in
- Turn over a new leaf
- Kick off
- Break the ice
- Get in on the ground floor
- Get the show on the road
- Start the ball rolling

The vocabulary words in this lesson describe different aspects of beginning. By studying these words, you will know which ones are appropriate substitutions for the informal expressions above.

### WORD LIST

broach  
 convene  
 debut  
 embark  
 generate  
 incipient  
 initiative  
 innovation  
 novice  
 overture

### DEFINITIONS

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

1. **broach** (brōch) *trans. verb* To talk or write about for the first time; to bring up. (From the Old French word *broche*, meaning "piercing")

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

**Example** The ambassador to the United Nations *broached* the issue of world hunger.

2. **convene** (kən-vēn') *intrans. verb* To assemble, usually for an official or public purpose; meet formally. *trans. verb* To cause to assemble. (From the Latin *com-*, meaning "together," and *venire*, meaning "to come")

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

**Example** Our club *convened* a half-hour early because of a long agenda.

3. **debut** (dā-byoo', dā'byoo') *noun* a. The beginning of a career or other course of action. b. A first public appearance, as of an actor on a stage. c. The formal presentation of a young woman to society. (From the French word *débuter*, meaning "to lead off in a game")

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

**Related Word** *debutante noun*

**Example** Hillary made her *debut* as an opera singer while she was still in high school.

4. **embark** (ēm-bārk') *intrans. verb* a. To set out on a venture; commence: *embark on a career*. b. To board a vessel, especially at the start of a journey. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning "in," and *barca*, meaning "boat")

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

**Related Word** *embarkation noun*

**Example** Robert Louis Stevenson *embarked* on a new life when he moved to an island in the Pacific.

5. **generate** (jĕn'ə-rāt') *trans. verb* To cause or create. (From the Latin word *generare*, meaning "to produce") 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** *generation noun; generator noun*  
**Example** A good question *generates* lively discussion.
6. **incipient** (in-sĭp'ĕ-ənt) *adjective* In an early stage; just beginning to exist or appear: *an incipient smile*. (From the Latin word *incipere*, meaning "to begin") 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** *inception noun; incipiently adverb*  
**Example** Belinda's *incipient* interest in photography lasted until she had her first roll of film developed.
7. **initiative** (ĭ-nĭsh'ə-tĭv) *noun* **a.** The power, ability, or instinct to begin or follow through with a plan or task; enterprise. **b.** A first step or opening move. **c.** The procedure by which citizens can propose a new law by petition and have it voted on. (From the Latin word *initium*, meaning "beginning") 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** *initial adjective; initiate verb; initiation noun*  
**Example** Because of John Roebling's *initiative* in 1867, the Brooklyn Bridge connects Brooklyn and Manhattan.
8. **innovation** (ĭn'ə-vā'shən) *noun* **a.** A creative act. **b.** Something begun or introduced; something that represents a change. (From the Latin word *innovare*, meaning "to renew") 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Words** *innovate verb; innovative adjective; innovator noun*  
**Example** Della's marketing *innovation* led to favorable publicity for her company.
9. **novice** (nŏv'ĭs) *noun* **a.** A person new to a field or activity; a beginner. **b.** A person who has entered a religious order but has not yet taken final vows. *adjective* Inexperienced. (From the Latin word *novus*, meaning "new") 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- Related Word** *novitiate noun*  
**Example** Brian was an expert cook but a *novice* at baking.
10. **overture** (ŏ'vər-chŏŏr') *noun* **a.** An act, offer, or proposal that indicates readiness to undertake a course of action. **b.** An instrumental composition that introduces an extended musical work. (From the Latin word *apertura*, meaning "an opening") 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- Example** The new students welcomed their guides' *overtures* of friendship.