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When you conclude an assignment or accomplish all of your household chores, you generally experience a feeling of achievement. On the other hand, if you put off writing a letter to a friend or finishing a project, the thought of its incompleteness may interfere with other things you try to do. In this lesson you will learn words that you can use to refer to different stages of completion.

**WORD LIST**

comprehensive
dearth
deficient
deficit
exhaustive
integral
paltry
plethora
replenish
scant

## DEFINITIONS

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

1. **comprehensive** (kŏm'prĭ-hĕn'sĭv) *adjective*  **a.** Covering completely or broadly; inclusive.  **b.** Having or exhibiting wide mental grasp: *comprehensive knowledge.* (From the Latin *com-,* meaning "together," and *prehendere,* meaning "to grasp")

   **Related Words**  comprehensively *adverb;* comprehensiveness *noun*
   **Example**       Each team member must have a *comprehensive* physical examination before the season begins.

   1. _____

2. **dearth** (dûrth) *noun*   A scarcity or lack. (From the Old English word *deore,* meaning "dear" or "costly")

   **Example**       There was a *dearth* of information in the library about the author Wilkie Collins.

   2. _____
   See *plethora.*

3. **deficient** (dĭ-fĭsh'ənt) *adjective*   **a.** Lacking an essential quality or element; insufficient.   **b.** Not up to normal standards. (From the Latin word *deficere,* meaning "to fail")

   **Related Word**  deficiency *noun*
   **Example**       A person suffering from scurvy is *deficient* in vitamin C.

   3. _____
   See *scant.*

4. **deficit** (dĕf'ĭ-sĭt) *noun*   An amount by which something falls short of the required or expected amount; a shortage. (From the Latin word *deficit,* meaning "it is lacking")

   **Example**       Deirdre discovered a *deficit* in her cash register tally.

   4. _____
   USAGE NOTE: When governments spend borrowed funds rather than tax moneys, *deficit spending* occurs.

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5. **exhaustive** (ĭg-zô'stĭv) *adjective*   Testing all possibilities or considering all elements; thorough. (From the Latin *ex-*, meaning "out," and *haurire*, meaning "to draw")

   **Related Words** exhaustively *adverb*; **exhaustiveness** *noun*
   **Example**      The students made an *exhaustive* study of their city's history.

6. **integral** (ĭn'tĭ-grəl, ĭn-tĕg'rəl) *adjective*   **a.** Essential or necessary for completeness.   **b.** In mathematics, formed of parts that together make a whole; not fractional. (From the Latin word *integer*, meaning "complete")

   **Related Word**   integrally *adverb*
   **Example**      Both words and illustrations are *integral* parts of a picture book for young children.

7. **paltry** (pôl'trē) *adjective*   **a.** Meager; insignificant.   **b.** Worthless; lowly; contemptible.

   **Related Word**   paltriness *noun*
   **Example**      Tony's grandmother told us about the *paltry* salary she received at her first job.

8. **plethora** (plĕth'ər-ə) *noun*   Superabundance; excess. (From the Greek word *plēthein*, meaning "to be full")

   **Example**      Mr. DiLessi owns a *plethora* of hats, which he displays on forty-two pegs in his hallway.

9. **replenish** (rĭ-plĕn'ĭsh) *trans. verb*   To fill or make complete again; add a new stock or supply to. (From the Latin *re-*, meaning "again," and *plenus*, meaning "full")

   **Related Words** replenishable *adjective*; **replenishment** *noun*
   **Example**      Before printing his report, Alex *replenished* his dwindling pile of paper.

10. **scant** (skănt) *adjective*   **a.** Being just short of full measure.   **b.** Lacking in amount or quantity; inadequate.   *trans. verb*   **a.** To provide with an inadequate share; skimp.   **b.** To deal with or treat inadequately. (From the Old Norse word *skamt*, meaning "short")

    **Example**      There was *scant* space in the courtroom to seat those who wished to attend the trial.

## Word History: replenish

Latin: *re*=again + *plenus*=full

The word *replenish*, "to fill or make complete again," comes from the Latin words *re*, meaning "again" and *plenus*, meaning "full." The Latin root *plen-* or *ple-* occurs in numerous words that have to do with filling or making full. For example, *plenty* means "a full amount," *plenipotentiary* describes someone "with full powers," and a *supplement* is "an addition to fill up what is lacking." The English language is "full" of words contaiing the root *plen-* or *ple-*. Look for them; they are *plentiful*.