

Often we are too caught up in the demands of everyday life to notice or become aware of the people and things that occupy our environment. For example, when was the last time you did the following?

Admired a sunset

Noticed that a friend was upset and needed encouragement

Gained a new understanding of a familiar situation

The words in this lesson can help you to become aware of what you may have been missing.

WORD LIST

behold
discernment
envision
foresee
gape
impressionistic
insight
myopia
perceptive
survey

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **behold** (bĭ-hōld') *trans. verb* To gaze at; look upon: *Behold the road before you!*

Related Word **beholder** *noun*

Example As the morning mist began to clear, Jonathan *beheld* the mountain towering before him.

2. **discernment** (dĭs-ŭrn'mənt, dĭ-zŭrn'mənt) *noun* Keeness or sharpness in detecting, distinguishing, or selecting. (From the Latin *dis-*, meaning "apart," and *cernere*, meaning "to sift")

Related Word **discern** *verb*

Example The baseball player was complimented for her *discernment* of the weaknesses of the opposing team.

3. **envision** (ĕn-vĭzh'ən) *trans. verb* To picture in the mind.

Example Amy clearly *envisioned* what living in a foreign country would be like.

4. **foresee** (fōr-sē') *trans. verb* To see or to know beforehand.

Related Words **foreseeable** *adjective*; **foresight** *noun*

Example "I *foresee* a wonderful future for you!" the professor told her student.

1. _____
See *discernment*.

2. _____
USAGE NOTE: To *behold* means simply "to look upon," whereas to *discern* means "to make out or detect (something obscure or concealed)."

3. _____

4. _____

5. **gape** (gāp, gāp) *intrans. verb* a. To stare in amazement with the mouth open. b. To open the mouth wide; yawn. c. To open wide. 5. _____

Example The astonished tourists *gaped* at the panoramic view of the Grand Canyon.

6. **impressionistic** (im-prĕsh' ə-nĭs'tĭk) *adjective* a. Of or pertaining to a highly personalized response to art or experience as opposed to a response based on reason or fact. b. Reflecting a style of painting of the late nineteenth century that is marked by concentration on the impression created by the subject. 6. _____

Related Words *impression noun; impressionism noun*

Example Stephen Crane's novel *The Red Badge of Courage* shows a young man's *impressionistic* view of war.

7. **insight** (in'sīt') *noun* a. The ability to see and understand the true nature of something: *insight into the workings of a system*. b. An idea of the true nature of something: *brilliant insight about the meaning of the movie*. 7. _____
See *perceptive*.

Related Words *insightful adjective; insightfully adverb*

Example Terri showed *insight* into the reason for Lisa's attitude.

8. **myopia** (mī-o'pĕ-ə) *noun* a. Shortsightedness or lack of good judgment in thinking or planning. b. Nearsightedness. (From the Greek words *muēin*, meaning "to close the eyes," and *ōps*, meaning "eye") 8. _____

Related Words *myopic adjective; myopically adverb*

Example *Myopia* among the city planners resulted in overcrowding and poor living conditions.

9. **perceptive** (pər-sĕp'tĭv) *adjective* a. Having the ability to be keenly aware of things and situations; knowing. b. Marked by understanding. (From the Latin word *percipere*, meaning "to grasp with the mind") 9. _____
USAGE NOTE: *Insight* and *perception* are synonyms.

Related Words *perceptible adjective; perception noun; perceptively adverb*

Example Josie's *perceptive* comments show that she has a good understanding of the short story.

10. **survey** (sər-vā', sūr'vā') *trans. verb* a. To examine or look at broadly. b. To inspect carefully; scrutinize. c. To determine the measures, boundaries, or elevation of land or features of earth's surface. *intrans. verb* To make a survey of land. *noun* (sūr'vā') a. A broad view. b. A detailed inspection or investigation. c. The act or process of surveying land. (From the Latin *super*, meaning "over," and *videre*, meaning "to look") 10. _____

Related Word *surveyor noun*

Example Before sending out applications, Bob *surveyed* all the colleges in his state.