

# Starts, Stops, and Delays

## WORD LIST

cessation  
preclude

commence  
procrastinate

deter  
scuttle

hamper  
subside

obstruction  
thwart

Life is full of unexpected delays. There are late airline flights, traffic jams, appointments that take longer than scheduled. The words in this lesson will help you describe the delays, starts, and stops that mark everyday life.

1. **cessation** (sě-sā'shən) *noun* from Latin *cessare*, "to stop"  
A bringing or coming to an end; a halt  
• The **cessation** of the loud drilling, from outside, enabled Ricardo to continue his flute lesson.

**cease** *verb* Peace talks did not begin until both sides **ceased** fighting.

2. **commence** (kə-měns') *verb* from Latin *initiare*, "to begin"  
To begin  
• The race **commenced** as the referee swiftly lowered the flag.

**commencement** *noun* Spring marks the **commencement** of the growing season.

3. **deter** (dě-tūr') *verb* from Latin *de-*, "away" + *terrere*, "to frighten"  
To prevent or discourage from acting, by means of fear or doubt  
• The iciness of the roads **deterred** us from driving.

**deterrent** *noun* People disagree about whether long jail sentences are **deterrents** to criminals.

4. **hamper** (hămp'ər)

a. *verb* To prevent from moving freely or making progress; to limit  
• Chuck's painfully tight shoes **hampered** him on the dance floor.

b. *noun* A large basket, usually with a cover  
• The **hamper** in the bathroom was overflowing with dirty clothes.



hamper

5. **obstruction** (əb-strūk'shən) *noun*  
from Latin *on-*, "against" + *struere*, "to pile up"  
Something that blocks or gets in the way; an obstacle  
• The landslide created an **obstruction**, blocking traffic on the freeway.

**obstruct** *verb* Neighbors complained that the new house **obstructed** their view of the lake.

Don't confuse *cease* with *seize*, which means "to grab or grasp."

A graduation ceremony is called a *commencement* because it marks the beginning of a new stage in life.



6. **preclude** (prĭ-klōd') *verb* from Latin *pre-*, “before” + *claudere*, “to close”  
To make impossible or unlikely; to prevent  
• The very cold temperature **precludes** the possibility of finding liquid water here.

7. **procrastinate** (prō-krās' tō-nāt') *verb* from Latin *pro-*, “forward” + *crastinus*, “tomorrow”  
To delay; to put off doing something  
• Martin was supposed to take out the garbage, but he **procrastinated** so long that the kitchen began to smell.

**procrastination** *noun* Because of her **procrastination**, Amani was late turning in her paper.

**procrastinator** *noun* The National **Procrastinators'** Club celebrates New Year's Day in October.

8. **scuttle** (skūt' l) *verb*  
To run or move with short, hurried movements; to scurry  
• The students **scuttled** across the yard and entered the classroom just before the bell rang.

9. **subside** (səb-sīd') *verb* from Latin *sub-*, “under” + *sidere*, “to settle”  
a. To sink to a lower or more normal level  
• It took days for the floodwaters to **subside**.  
b. To become less active or intense  
• After Meredith read the test, her fear of failing **subsided**.

10. **thwart** (thwōrt) *verb* from Old Norse *thvert*, “transverse”  
To prevent from taking place; frustrate; block  
• A swarm of bees **thwarted** our plans for a picnic.

*Procrastination* often involves an element of avoiding a task or wasting time.

*Scuttle* can also mean “to sink, scrap, or discard,” as in “Don't *scuttle* the ship—it's still in good shape.”

## WORD ENRICHMENT

### Old Norse words

Many English words, such as *thwart*, reflect the two centuries of Viking migration to the British Isles, that began in the late 700s. These invaders and settlers from Scandinavia—which included what is now Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland—brought their language, Old Norse, with them.

The common words *call*, *hit*, *husband*, *skill*, *low*, *weak*, *window*, and *law* originally come from Old Norse. So do the pronouns *they*, *their*, and *them*. The word *fellow* comes from the Old Norse *felagi*, meaning “business partner.”



**WRITE THE CORRECT WORD**

Write the correct word in the space next to each definition.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. to run with short, hurried steps | _____ 6. to begin                   |
| _____ 2. something that gets in the way   | _____ 7. to limit the progress of   |
| _____ 3. a halt                           | _____ 8. to prevent from happening  |
| _____ 4. to make impossible               | _____ 9. to put off doing           |
| _____ 5. to become less active            | _____ 10. to discourage from acting |

**COMPLETE THE SENTENCE**

Write the letter for the word that best completes each sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Frightened by the cat, the mouse \_\_\_\_\_ to safety.  
a. deterred                      b. scuttled                      c. subsided                      d. hampered
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When his cold symptoms \_\_\_\_\_, Demetrius returned to work.  
a. hampered                      b. scuttled                      c. subsided                      d. commenced
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The difficulty and risks involved in climbing Mount Everest have \_\_\_\_\_ many people from even attempting it.  
a. deterred                      b. procrastinated                      c. scuttled                      d. subsided
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Once the rain stopped, the game could \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. thwart                      b. preclude                      c. deter                      d. commence
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The fact that he was an employee \_\_\_\_\_ him from entering the store's sweepstakes.  
a. precluded                      b. commenced                      c. subsided                      d. scuttled
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. My brother always \_\_\_\_\_; his favorite saying is "Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow."  
a. scuttles                      b. procrastinates                      c. commences                      d. deters
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the pipe ultimately caused it to burst.  
a. scuttle                      b. cessation                      c. obstruction                      d. hamper
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. We had to wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the thunderstorm before we could sail.  
a. cessation                      b. obstruction                      c. thwarting                      d. commencement
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. My travel plans were \_\_\_\_\_ by the airline strike.  
a. subsided                      b. commenced                      c. scuttled                      d. thwarted
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Put your dirty clothes in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. procrastinator                      b. cessation                      c. hamper                      d. obstruction

**Challenge:** There was no danger, difficulty, or \_\_\_\_\_ that could \_\_\_\_\_ Ponce de Leon from venturing into the jungles of Florida to search for the fountain of youth.  
\_\_\_\_\_ a. cessation...commence    b. obstruction...deter    c. procrastination...subside



# Unlikely Helpers

It's possible that man's best friend will turn out to be a rat—at least when it comes to getting rid of landmines. The rat's sensitive nose, amazing endurance, and huge appetite make it ideal for the job of detecting these dangerous weapons.

There are hundreds of thousands of hidden, unexploded landmines buried throughout the world.

(1) Political conflict often *obstructs* efforts to get rid of them. (2) But even after the *cessation* of wars, these mines can kill or injure people who accidentally step on them.

(3) After a sixteen-year civil war ended in Mozambique, efforts *commenced* to find the many landmines still hidden there. But officials struggled with a basic question: What is the best way to search for them?

People have used metal detectors to search for the mines. (4) However, the potential danger of an explosion *deters* planners from asking people to perform this task. Furthermore, metal detectors cannot distinguish an ordinary metal object from a mine. Bulldozers protected by armor are also used to find mines. (5) Although they work well on flat ground, bulldozers are *hampered* by hills and by landscapes dotted with buildings.

Because TNT, the explosive used in landmines, has a distinct scent, dogs have been used to sniff out mines. However, dogs are not ideal for the job, either. They can become bored easily. (6) If a dog tires of the repetitive nature of this task, it may start to *procrastinate* or even disobey its trainer's orders. Furthermore, the dogs used for this task usually weigh enough to trigger the landmines, which can be deadly to the dogs and their trainers. Finally, because they are unused to tropical

climates and parasites, dogs working in warm African countries may contract diseases.

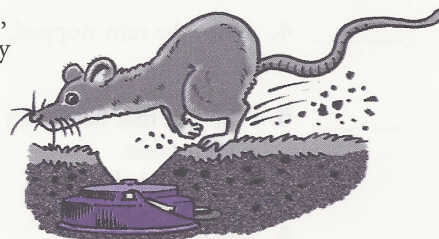
Unlike dogs, the Gambian giant-pouched rat may be perfect for the job. A Belgian company is experimenting with training these rats to find landmines. Typically, the rats bury food underground and locate it with their extraordinary sense of smell. Trainers simply teach the rats to associate the scent of TNT with a food reward. When a rat locates an explosive, it claws the ground. Then the trainer clicks a noisemaker that signals the rat to return for its reward—usually peanut butter or a banana.

Since the Gambian rat is native to Africa, it is used to the climate and resistant to local diseases. At a maximum length of three feet—half of which is tail—these rats can easily be harnessed. (7) Their low weight *precludes* the rats from accidentally triggering landmines. These rats can also be social and are trained to be obedient.

(8) Food rewards are the only incentive they need to encourage them to *scuttle* about, sniffing for landmines over and over again.

(9) In fact, only two factors commonly *thwart* the rats' efforts to locate landmines. Because they normally live underground and are nocturnal, or active at night, they are not used to the hot sun and can suffer heatstroke during the day. Also, they must be hungry to work effectively.

(10) Once a rat's appetite *subsides*, it may refuse to sniff for mines.



Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Political conflict often \_\_\_\_\_ efforts to get rid of them.  
a. ends                      b. begins                      c. helps                      d. blocks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. But even after the \_\_\_\_\_ of wars, these mines can kill or injure people.  
a. beginning                      b. preventing                      c. end                      d. putting off
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Efforts \_\_\_\_\_ to find the many landmines still hidden there.  
a. began                      b. halted                      c. ended                      d. sank
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The potential danger of an explosion \_\_\_\_\_ planners from asking people to perform this task.  
a. scurries                      b. discourages                      c. ends                      d. frustrates



- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Bulldozers are \_\_\_\_\_ by hills and by landscapes dotted with buildings.  
a. finished      b. covered baskets      c. prevented      d. limited
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. If a dog tires of the repetitive nature of this task, it may start to \_\_\_\_\_ or even disobey its trainer's orders.  
a. create a blockage      b. begin working      c. put off working      d. move about quickly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Their low weight \_\_\_\_\_ the rats from accidentally triggering landmines.  
a. prevents      b. causes      c. delays      d. begins
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Food rewards are the only incentive they need to encourage them to \_\_\_\_\_ about, sniffing for landmines over and over again.  
a. block      b. scurry      c. move      d. scratch
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. In fact, only two factors commonly \_\_\_\_\_ the rats' efforts to locate landmines.  
a. start      b. help      c. avoid      d. block
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Once a rat's appetite \_\_\_\_\_, it may refuse to sniff for mines.  
a. decreases      b. increases      c. doesn't work      d. begins

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In their natural environment, Gambian rats are active during the daytime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Trained Gambian rats are most effective as landmine detectors when they are hungry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Trained Gambian rats find landmines because they associate the smell of TNT with food.

## FINISH THE THOUGHT

Complete each sentence so that it shows the meaning of the italicized word.

1. I tend to *procrastinate* when \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. A car trip would be *hampered* by \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The teacher issued a warning to all \_\_\_\_\_ that Friday would be the last chance to turn in papers. (*procrastinate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The principal announced that \_\_\_\_\_ would take place on June 16. (*commence*)



- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ across the sand, the crab disappeared into the surf. (*scuttle*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After the storm \_\_\_\_\_, the children stomped in the mud. (*subside*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Will your babbling never \_\_\_\_\_?" (*cessation*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Apparently, the threat of being grounded wasn't enough of a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep Jerome from staying out past midnight. (*deter*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The writer's contract \_\_\_\_\_ him from sending his manuscript to other publishers. (*preclude*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. My view of the movie was \_\_\_\_\_ by the tall woman sitting in front of me. (*obstruction*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ my efforts to finish my homework! (*hamper*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. In the movie, the evil leader's plans were \_\_\_\_\_ once again. (*thwart*)

## FIND THE EXAMPLE

Choose the answer that best describes the action or situation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Something that might *hamper* a person's ability to smell dinner  
a. a gourmet meal      b. a late arrival      c. a bad cold      d. an empty stomach
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Something you're likely to hear after the *cessation* of a concert  
a. a drum solo      b. total silence      c. applause      d. electric guitars
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Something that would *preclude* you from voting in the United States today  
a. being under 18      b. being a citizen      c. being a woman      d. observing U.S. holidays
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. An example of an *obstruction* of justice  
a. serving on a jury      b. witnessing a crime      c. calling the police      d. destroying evidence
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A creature that *scuttles*  
a. an elephant      b. a hamster      c. a goldfish      d. a jellyfish
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Something that might *deter* a thief from stealing  
a. fear of jail      b. love of money      c. a partner in crime      d. an open safe
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The day that marks the *commencement* of most adults' workweek in the United States  
a. Saturday      b. Sunday      c. Monday      d. Friday
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A likely result of *procrastinating* instead of studying for an exam  
a. a happy teacher      b. a pat on the back      c. a college scholarship      d. a low grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Something that would most likely *thwart* plans for a trip to the beach  
a. bad weather      b. warm sun      c. sand      d. an umbrella
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Something that would likely help someone's anger *subside*  
a. extreme jealousy      b. a mean insult      c. a kind apology      d. a lack of trust



# Argument and Debate

## WORD LIST

apologist  
indisputable

dissuade  
infer

dupe  
red herring

fallacy  
refute

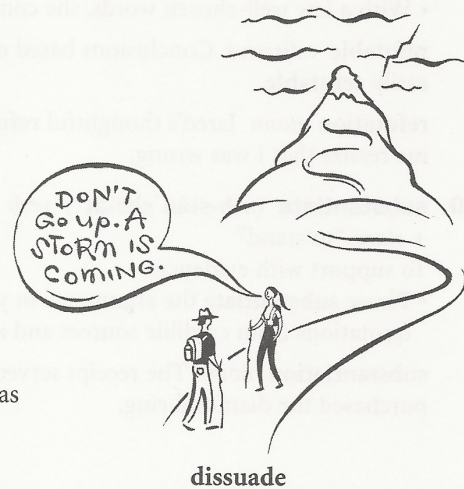
imply  
substantiate

No two people think exactly the same way. We all have different views, opinions, and perspectives on issues. That's why argument and debate are part of life. The words in this lesson will help you understand the vocabulary involved in conveying a particular point of view.

1. **apologist** (ə-pŏl'ə-jĭst) *noun* from Greek *apologia*, "a speech in defense of a person or an idea"  
A person who speaks in defense of a person, an idea, or a position
  - The **apologist** for the striking players argued that they were only asking for their fair share of the wealth they helped to bring in.
2. **dissuade** (dĭ-swād') *verb* from Latin *dis-*, "not" + *suadere*, "to advise"  
To discourage from doing something through persuasion
  - The experienced camper tried to **dissuade** the eleven-year-old from attempting the difficult hike.
3. **dupe** (dōōp) from Old French, probably *huppe*, "a foolish-looking bird"
  - a. *verb* To take advantage of people by tricking or fooling them
    - When the couple saw that the vacation home they had rented was in a swamp, they realized they had been **duped**.
  - b. *noun* Someone tricked and taken advantage of
    - Because he was too trusting, Mel became the **dupe** of dishonest financial advisers, who got him to invest in a phony get-rich-quick scheme.
4. **fallacy** (fāl'ə-sē) *noun* from Latin *fallere*, "to deceive"
  - a. A false belief
    - It is a **fallacy** to think that the best candidate will always win the election.
  - b. Faulty and illogical reasoning
    - The talk show host lost viewer confidence because his arguments were often full of **fallacies**.

**fallacious** *adjective* The debate coach pointed out the problem with Mario's **fallacious** reasoning.
5. **imply** (ĭm-plĭ') *verb* from Latin *in-*, "in" + *plic*, "fold"  
To hint; to suggest indirectly
  - A frown **implies** unhappiness or dissatisfaction.

**implication** *noun* When Dad said, "You know your curfew," the **implication** was that we'd better not be late.



*Imply* means "to hint"; *infer* means "to draw a conclusion." People often make *inferences* from things that are *implied*.