

Whether we volunteer our time to an organization, contribute money to a favorite charity, or simply help a friend complete a task, we perform kind acts on a daily basis. Some people give help out of a sense of duty or obligation; others act kindly in the hope of reward. Regardless of the motive, the result of kindness is the same: the acceptance by others of needed support or assistance. The words in this lesson will enable you to express your thoughts and observations about kindness.

WORD LIST

altruistic
benefactor
beneficial
benevolent
benign
bountiful
gratify
humanitarian
indulge
philanthropic

DEFINITIONS

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

1. **altruistic** (ăl' trōō-īs'tīk) *adjective* Unselfishly concerned with or devoted to the welfare of others. (From the Latin word *alter*, meaning "other")

Related Words **altruism** *noun*; **altruistically** *adverb*

Example Andrew Carnegie's *altruistic* beliefs inspired him to donate money for the libraries of the United States.

1. _____

2. **benefactor** (běn'ə-făk'tər) *noun* One who helps another person in need; one who gives income or property to an institution. (From the Latin phrase *bene facere*, meaning "to do well")

Related Word **benefaction** *noun*

Example In the novel *Great Expectations*, Pip wonders who his *benefactor* is.

2. _____
See *humanitarian*.

3. **beneficial** (běn'ə-fīsh'əl) *adjective* Helpful; advantageous; promoting a favorable result. (From the Latin phrase *bene facere*, meaning "to do well")

Related Words **beneficiary** *noun*; **benefit** *noun*; **benefit** *verb*

Example Sunshine and rain are *beneficial* to crops.

3. _____

4. **benevolent** (bə-něv'ə-lənt) *adjective* Characterized by or expressing good will or kindness. (From the Latin words *bene*, meaning "well," and *volens*, meaning "wishing")

Related Words **benevolence** *noun*; **benevolently** *adverb*

Example The Red Cross is a *benevolent* organization that helps victims of fires, floods, and other disasters.

4. _____

5. **benign** (bĭ-nĭn') *adjective* a. Kind and gently; mild and favorable. b. Not seriously harmful. (From the Latin word *benignus*, meaning "kind") 5. _____

Related Word **benignly** *adverb*

Example Caroline's *benign* manner makes her an excellent dolphin trainer.

6. **bountiful** (boun'tə-fəl) *adjective* a. Plentiful; abundant. b. Giving generously. (From the Latin word *bonitas*, meaning "goodness") 6. _____

Related Words **bountifully** *adverb*; **bounty** *noun*

Example The family's *bountiful* contribution was used to feed and clothe the refugees.

7. **gratify** (grăt'ə-fi') *verb* To please or satisfy. (From the Latin word *gratificari*, meaning "to do a favor") 7. _____

Related Word **gratification** *noun*

Example The results of the canned-food drive *gratified* the entire committee.

8. **humanitarian** (hyŏŏ-măn'ĭ-târ'ē-ən) *noun* A person concerned with helping to improve human welfare and promote social reform. *adjective* Relating to the desire to promote human welfare and social reform: *humanitarian contributions*. 8. _____

Related Word **humanitarian** *noun*

Example Helen Keller is considered a great *humanitarian* because of her work in establishing educational programs for blind and deaf people.

USAGE NOTE: A *humanitarian* promotes the welfare of people in general. A *benefactor* helps one person or one institution.

9. **indulge** (ĭn-dŭlj') *verb* a. To yield to the desires or wishes of; pamper. b. To allow oneself some special pleasure. c. To engage or take part in: *to indulge in a sport*. (From the Latin word *indulgere*, meaning "to be kind") 9. _____

Related Words **indulgence** *noun*; **indulgent** *adjective*

Example Mother *indulges* in afternoon naps on Sundays.

10. **philanthropic** (fĭl'ən-thrŏp'ĭk) *adjective* Relating to the effort to help other people, such as by making donations of money, property, or work; charitable. (From the Greek words *philos*, meaning "loving," and *anthropos*, meaning "person") 10. _____

Related Words **philanthropically** *adverb*; **philanthropist** *noun*; **philanthropy** *noun*

Example Most people did not know of Mr. Johnson's *philanthropic* activity until after his death.

NAME _____

DATE _____

EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that fits each definition.

1. A person who improves human welfare and promotes social reform 1. _____
2. To please or satisfy 2. _____
3. Gentle; not seriously harmful 3. _____
4. One who helps a person in need 4. _____
5. Characterized by good will or kindness 5. _____
6. To yield to the desires or wishes of; allow oneself some special pleasure 6. _____
7. Relating to the effort to help other people through donations or work; charitable 7. _____
8. Plentiful; giving generously 8. _____
9. Helpful; promoting a favorable result 9. _____
10. Unselfishly concerned with the welfare of others. 10. _____

EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Each of the following statements contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide whether the sentence is true or false, and write *True* or *False* on the answer line.

1. A *humanitarian* treats others badly. 1. _____
2. An action performed out of spite is *altruistic*. 2. _____
3. A compliment on a hand-knitted sweater would *gratify* the knitter. 3. _____
4. Someone who won a large amount of money in a lottery might *indulge* in a new camera. 4. _____
5. Clear weather and brisk winds were *beneficial* to sailors on sailing ships. 5. _____
6. Children would be likely to run in fear from a *benign* dog. 6. _____
7. A *philanthropic* contribution is usually accepted with gratitude. 7. _____
8. A *benevolent* person would be generous toward other people. 8. _____
9. A nation with a *bountiful* supply of food would have food shortages. 9. _____
10. A person's *benefactor* would take money away from him or her. 10. _____

EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. Christie is a _____ child who tries to help all injured animals. 1. _____
a. gratifying b. beneficial c. benevolent d. bountiful

2. Although the store has run out of shelled walnuts, it has a(n) _____ supply of almonds.
a. bountiful b. indulged c. philanthropic d. altruistic 2. _____
3. In the winter I _____ by sitting in front of the fireplace and watching old movies on television.
a. am bountiful c. am benign
b. act philanthropically d. indulge myself 3. _____
4. "I am _____ by your request for my stew recipe," said the chef.
a. gratified b. indulged c. benign d. altruistic 4. _____
5. The weather was so _____ when we left home that we did not consider taking umbrellas.
a. bountiful b. humanitarian c. altruistic d. benign 5. _____
6. The magazine article about Delores Smythe, a local _____, failed to describe her work with the community garden.
a. benefit b. humanitarian c. bounty d. benevolence 6. _____
7. Milk and milk products _____ for both young children and the elderly.
a. are benevolent c. are beneficial
b. seem altruistic d. are bountiful 7. _____
8. _____ is necessary to keep private colleges and universities operating.
a. Philanthropy b. Bounty c. Gratification d. Indulgence 8. _____
9. Their _____ led the Morrisons to set aside several acres of their farm as a camp for disabled children.
a. bounty b. benefactor c. indulgence d. altruism 9. _____
10. For years Beth searched for the _____ who had paid for her music lessons.
a. altruism b. bounty c. benefactor d. humanitarian 10. _____

EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Each sentence contains an italicized vocabulary word in a form that does not fit the sentence. On the answer line, write the form of the word that does fit the sentence.

1. Without the *benefactor* provided by the wealthy stranger, Lee could not have gone to medical school. 1. _____
2. The Sammarcos' *humanitarian* was appreciated by the entire community. 2. _____
3. The hungry travelers marveled at the *bountiful* in their hosts' kitchen. 3. _____
4. The parents were more *indulge* with their youngest child than with the others. 4. _____
5. *Benevolent* brings rich rewards. 5. _____
6. The teacher smiled *benign* at the new student standing nervously at the door. 6. _____
7. The woman rewarded her nephew for his *altruistic*. 7. _____
8. The voice coach's praise brought Jane *gratify*. 8. _____

9. The famous *philanthropic* contributed a large sum of money for the new wing of the hospital.
10. The primary *beneficial* listed in Mr. McLeod's will was his wife.

9. _____

10. _____

READING COMPREHENSION

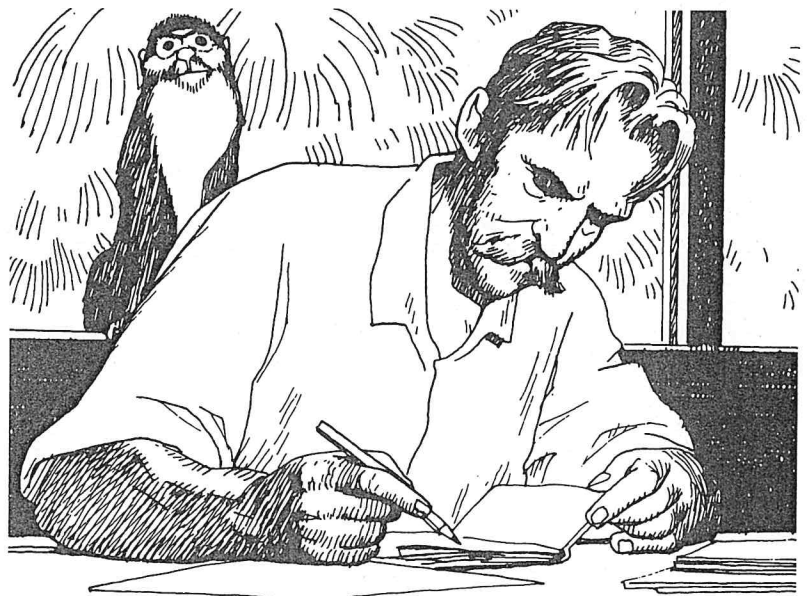
Each numbered sentence in the following passage contains an italicized vocabulary word or related form. After you read the passage, you will complete an exercise.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER: DOCTOR AND HUMANITARIAN

(1) Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965) was one of the most *altruistic* men of all time. (2) He is remembered and respected as an outstanding *humanitarian* who gave up promising careers in his native Germany to help the people who needed him.

Before he had reached the age of thirty, Dr. Schweitzer was already a well-known philosopher, minister, musician, and writer. (3) His accomplishments in any one of these fields would have *gratified* most people. (4) Although he could have *indulged* himself with comfortable living, Dr. Schweitzer decided instead to serve humanity.

(5) After completing medical school, the *benign* doctor went to Africa in 1913. (6) As a medical missionary, he was ready to put his *philanthropic* dream into action. (7) In French Equatorial Africa, he became the *benefactor* of thousands of people who were without medical attention. Operating under primitive conditions, he fought leprosy, sleeping sickness, and other tropical dis-



eases. (8) He used the *bountiful* donations from his former parishioners, as well as money he had earned from his organ concerts in Germany and France, to finance a modern hospital at Lambaréné. (9) When this *benevolent* man won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952, he even contributed his prize of thirty-three thousand dollars to the hospital fund.

(10) Dr. Albert Schweitzer is remembered not only for the *benefits* he brought to Africans but also as a symbol. Believing that all people deserve respect, he appreciated the preciousness of life and hated violence. His happiness made him feel a duty to help others. In doing so, he became an example to the world of what kindness in thought and action could accomplish.

READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE

Each of the following statements corresponds to a numbered sentence in the passage. Each statement contains a blank and is followed by four answer choices. Decide which choice fits best in the blank. The word or phrase that you choose must express roughly the same meaning as the italicized word in the passage. Write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. Dr. Albert Schweitzer was one of the most _____ men of all time. 1. _____
a. active c. clearly honest
b. unselfishly devoted d. talented
2. He is remembered and respected as an outstanding _____. 2. _____
a. healer of the sick c. entertainer
b. adviser to governments d. contributor to others' welfare
3. Schweitzer's accomplishments in any one of his careers would have _____ most people. 3. _____
a. satisfied b. annoyed c. challenged d. disappointed
4. Dr. Schweitzer could have _____ comfortable living. 4. _____
a. taught himself c. given up
b. hoped for d. pampered himself with
5. The _____ doctor went to Africa in 1913. 5. _____
a. old b. talented c. kind d. musical
6. Schweitzer wanted to put his _____ dream into action. 6. _____
a. charitable b. lifelong c. impossible d. realistic
7. He became the _____ thousands of people in French Equatorial Africa. 7. _____
a. traveler to c. consultant to
b. helper of d. organist for
8. He used the _____ donations from his former parishioners to build a modern hospital. 8. _____
a. small b. property c. tax-free d. generous
9. When this _____ man won the Nobel Peace Prize, he contributed his prize money to the hospital fund. 9. _____
a. persistent b. brilliant c. kind d. unusual
10. Dr. Schweitzer is remembered for the _____ he brought to Africans. 10. _____
a. advantages c. knowledge
b. dramatic cures d. machinery

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Think of a situation in which a person demonstrated kindness. The situation might have been one that you took part in, or it might have been an event that you witnessed or read about. Write a paragraph in which you narrate the incident, focusing on what happened and what the outcome was. Use at least five of the words from this lesson in your narrative paragraph and underline them.