

Syllasearch Stories

Sequence D, Lists D1–D9

D1 Syllasearch Story

conversation, consult, advertise, confident, advise, adjust,
fever, insult



I went out to dinner with some friends last week. We had a very interesting conversation. We did not always agree about everything, but we were civil. We knew how to have different opinions and still not insult each other.

At the end of dinner, I did not feel well. I had a fever. It was a terrible fever and I wasn't sure what to do. My friends wanted to help. One friend, Jack, said, "I would advise you to consult with your doctor. Your doctor will know what to do."

So, I went to the doctor's office. I told him about my fever and he advised me to take some medicine. I took the medicine for five days, but I still did not feel better. I called the doctor and he said it was time to adjust the medicine. "I am confident that you will feel better after you take it." So, I did and I felt better.

D2 Syllasearch Story

recreation, rectangle, simplify, similar, model, modern,
cavity, cavern



I had just come home from the dentist's office. The dentist had fixed a cavity in my mouth. I was tired and really wanted to rest.

My mother told me, "You need to do your geometry homework. It's about rectangles. There are a lot of rectangles in your homework." I told her it was very complicated. Our class had asked the teacher if she could simplify the homework. But she couldn't.

My sister told me that she was going on a field trip to a place where there were caverns. She wanted to tell me all about caverns for a long time.

My brother showed me his new model airplane.

Finally, it was time to rest. Well, maybe not. My cousin came in and yelled, "It's time for some recreation." She wanted to know if I would go out and play football with her. OK, I told her. We played until it was dark.

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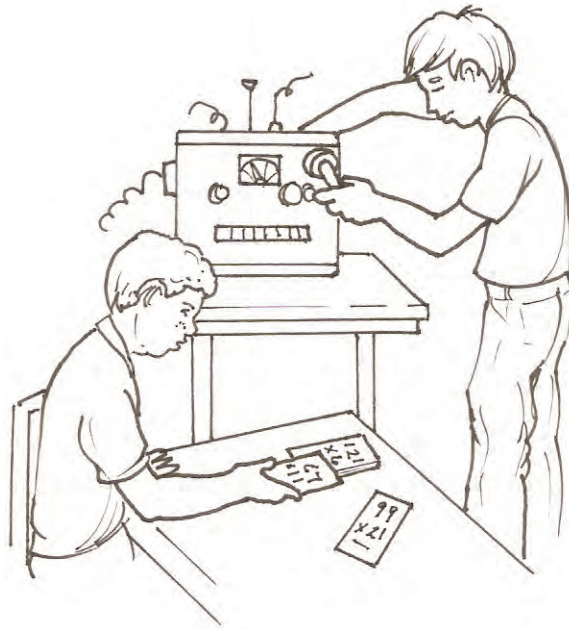
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When we got home it was time for dinner. Then we had to help with the dishes. I guess I'll get some rest tonight. I'm going to put a sign on my bedroom door.

What do you think the sign will say?

D3 Syllasearch Story

addition, adventure, constant, conform, invention, condition,
convention, inform



When I was young, my cousin, Paul, would work very hard to come up with an invention. He wanted to make his invention at home. One day, his baby sister was crying. On another day his brother was playing the drums. Then his dog was barking or the TV was too loud.

"These are not the right conditions for me in which to create an invention! This constant noise is distracting me," he said. "Mom, I must inform you that I am leaving. I need to work on my invention in a quiet place."

So Paul came over to my house that day. I was practicing my addition facts so I knew that I would be quiet and he could work. He worked and worked and worked. He wanted to create an invention that would clean up your room for you. He wanted to create an invention that would clean your clothes while you were wearing them.

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(D3 Syllasearch Story *continues*)

Well, Paul never created those inventions, but he did grow up to become an inventor. He invents all sorts of handy things. Every year he goes to a very important convention in California. People come from all over the world to see Paul's inventions.

D4 Syllasearch Story

procrastinate, produce, reduce, abbreviate, posture, possible,
culture, cultivate



Tayzia, a friend of mine, is in the 5th grade. She always does things the last minute. She procrastinates all the time. She only studied for a science test the night before the test. She got a C minus.

Tayzia went in to talk to the teacher. The teacher said, “I had to reduce your grade because your answers were not complete. You really need to produce better work. You know that the school tries to cultivate a culture of hard work and dedication. Is it possible that you didn’t study?”

“I did study, but I ran out of time. It was late and I had to go to bed,” said Tayzia. The teacher asked, “How could you run out of time? You had a week to study.” Tayzia put her head down and said, “I didn’t start studying until last night. I don’t know what to do. I procrastinate all the time.”

“I have an idea. I think I can help you.” the teacher said. “On every Monday, let’s make a chart of the home work you need to do for the week. I think the chart may help you manage your time.”

What do you think happened? Did the chart help?

Did Tayzia stop procrastinating?

D5 Syllasearch Story

enrage, encourage, discourage, disappear, compress,
comprise, surprise, survive



My friend's family was going on a camping trip. They encouraged me to go and I said I would. I didn't really want to go. I had never been camping before. I was afraid there were bears. Would I even survive the trip? At least my dad was coming.

Then, it happened. My dad told me, at the last minute, that he had a business trip and could not come with us. I was enraged. How could he just disappear? Now, I really wondered if I would survive.

It was the morning of the trip. I was discouraged. I was nervous. Off we went. We went swimming, hiking, and rock climbing. We made s'mores. We made a campfire and sang songs. We played games. All of these activities had to be compressed into two days!

At the end of the trip, I thought how silly I had been. It was a lot of fun. What a surprise! I can't wait for the next trip. And this time, my dad will be there.

D6 Syllasearch Story

profile, protect, evident, resident, residue, president,
announce, pronounce



The president of the United States has a difficult job. He has a high profile throughout the world. (Having a high profile means being well known). The president has many, many duties and he works very hard. Some people say that it is evident that the president's job is difficult because most presidents' hair turns gray during the time they are president.

The president and his family are residents of a very large, beautiful home called the White House. There are some people whose job it is to protect the president. They are called the Secret Service.

When the president walks into a room, to show respect, everyone stands up. When the president is going to give a speech, they announce him by saying "Ladies and Gentlemen, the president of the United States." And in some places, when he comes into a room, they play a little tune. It's called "Hail to the Chief."

D7 Syllasearch Story

inhabitant, demolish, forward, homeward, deform, inward,
instant, inform



My great-grandfather was the inhabitant of a fishing village. His children moved to the United States. They thought it was important to move forward in their lives. All three went to college and got good jobs.

Eliza became a medical researcher. She can tell you in an instant why people get sick.

Stuart became an architect. He knows how to design new buildings. Sometimes it is necessary to demolish the old buildings so Stuart can design something new to replace them. People really enjoy Stuart's buildings.

Mary became a historian. She likes to inform people about the history of South America. She understands how the inhabitants of different places lived a long time ago.

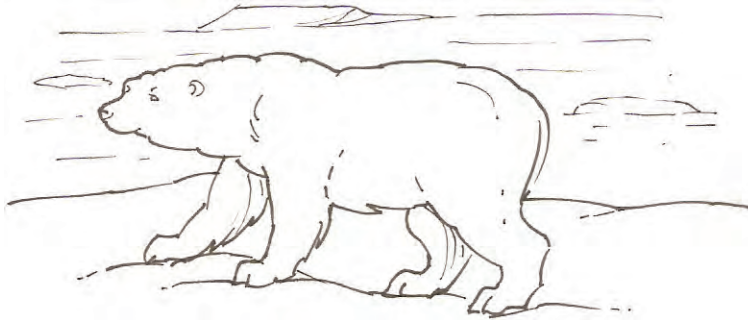
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My great-grandfather is no longer with us. All the family, including Eliza, Stuart, and Mary went to visit his old fishing village one summer. It was a fascinating and educational trip for everyone. After two weeks, the trip had come to an end. "Onward and homeward" they cried. But they never forgot what they learned.

D8 Syllasearch Story

humidity, vanity, preserve, extinct, extend, pretend,
presume, reserve



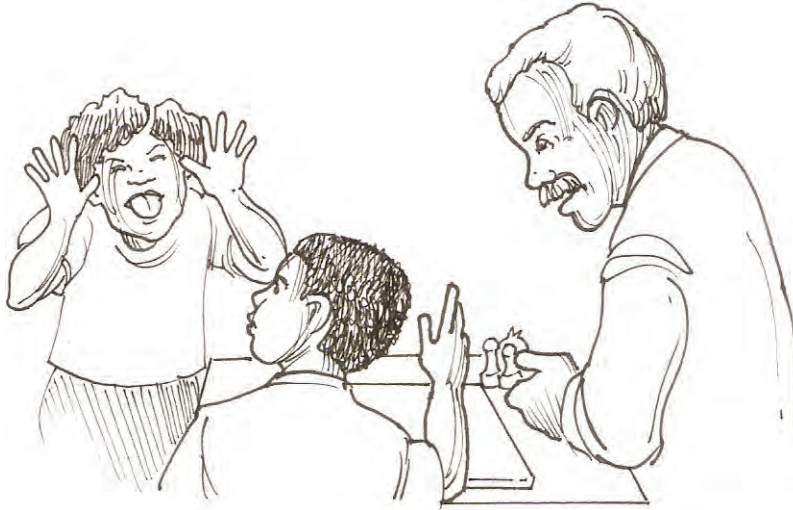
I used to like to travel to the rain forest. In the rain forest, there was a lot of humidity, so it was hot and sticky. But I loved the animals. I found them fascinating and developed a deep appreciation for all sorts of animals.

Several types of animals are going extinct. That means that there are fewer and fewer of them. If things don't change, then some time in the future, there will be no more of those types of animals. We should try to think of ways to preserve those animals.

For example, we believe that the polar bear is going extinct. We cannot pretend that this is not a problem. Many people believe that the earth is getting warmer and ice in the arctic region is melting. As a result, polar bears are not getting enough to eat. They are going extinct. We should try to extend the lives of the polar bears and preserve them as a species. After all we are animals too.

D9 Syllasearch Story

remarkable, propel, propeller, remark, reliable, repel,
expel, excel



I spent my life as a pilot. I used to joke that all I needed was a plane with a propeller to do my job. Of course that was a joke. There are other things that a pilot had to have.

Now, I am retired and spend a lot of time with my grandchildren.

My granddaughter, Amy, who is eight years old, is very interesting. Actually some people say she is remarkable for eight years old. She knows how to do karate. She can play tennis, soccer, basketball, and swim faster than any child I know. She excels in school. She usually beats me in checkers, chess, and backgammon. She is reliable. One day we were playing chess. I thought I had a chance of winning. She moved several pieces and took a few of my pieces, but I was able to repel her attack. At the end of the game, I was able to checkmate Amy. I had won the game.

Amy's brother, Max, made an interesting remark. He said to Amy, "Maybe you are not so remarkable after all." Amy stuck her tongue out at Max.

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(D9 Syllasearch Story *continues*)

I told Max that the remark was mean. I told Amy she was acting like a baby. I also said if they acted like that in school they might even expel both of them. Max said that he was joking and that he was very sorry. Amy almost cried and said she would never do that again. Everyone made up. Maybe, if they're good, I'll take them on a plane ride.