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ESSENTIAL

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Paul Nation

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INTRODUCTION

About the Vocabulary

The 600 words in each book of this series, along with the additional target words in the appendices found in the first three books of the series, include the most useful words in English. The books are based on the carefully researched BNC/COCA word frequency lists, which can be found on Paul Nation's website. Because of the way that they were chosen, these words have the following characteristics:

- 1. They are useful in both spoken and written English. No matter what English course a learner is studying, the words in these books will be of value.
- 2. Each word in these books is a high-frequency word or mid-frequency word. This means that the effort invested in learning the words will not be wasted. Learners will have many chances to encounter or use them in their studies.
- 3. As a whole, these books cover a large proportion of the words in any spoken or written text. They cover at least 80% of the words in newspapers and academic texts, and at least 90% of the words in novels. They also cover at least 90% of the words in conversation.

About the Books

The activities in these books are specially designed to make use of important learning conditions. The words are introduced using sentence definitions and an example sentence. The activities that follow in the units encourage learners to recall the meanings and forms of the words. Some activities also make the learners think about the meaning of the words in the context of a sentence—a sentence which differs from the sentences that occurred in the introduction of the words. Moreover, each unit ends with a story containing the target words. While reading the story, the learners have a chance to recall the meanings of the words and adapt them to the context of the story. Such activities help learners develop a better understanding of a common meaning for a given word that fits the different uses.

Images for each target word help learners visualize the word as it is used in the example sentence. These word-image associations help students grasp the meaning of the word as well as recall the word later.

Book 1 assumes that the learner knows around 400 words of English and focuses on the remaining words in the first 1000, plus some from the second 1000.

Book 4 focuses primarily on the words in Averil Coxhead's well-known Academic Word List. This list of 570 words is particularly useful for learners of English as a foreign language who need to read academic texts in English at secondary school or university level, and who need to speak, write, and listen to lectures on academic topics in English.

Although many words have more than one grammatical form, this series focuses on the word's most common form. This is mentioned to remind learners that, just because a word is labeled and used as a noun in this series, does not mean that it can never be used in another form. This series has simply focused on the word in the form in which it is most likely to be used.

To ensure that a wide range of learners in any given class can find useful words to learn in each unit, the inclusion of words does not strictly adhere to each 1000-word level. However, there is a progression from the first 1000 words to the fourth 1000 words through the books in the series. Table 1 shows the levels of the books.

Table 1: The books in the 4000 ESSENTIAL ENGLISH WORDS series, frequency levels, and CEFR levels

4000 Level books	Major word level in the books	CEFR level
Book 1	1000	A2
Book 2	1000-2000	A2
Book 3	2000-3000	B1
Book 4	AWL and to design the	B2
Book 5	3000-4000	B2
Book 6	4000	C1

Supporting Learning with Other Activities

A well-balanced language course provides four major opportunities for learning: learning through input, learning through output, deliberate learning, and fluency development. The highly structured activities in these books support all four types of learning opportunities. Learning can further be supported through the following activities:

- 1. Have students create vocabulary cards with one word from the unit on one side of the card and the translation of the word in the student's first language on the other side. Students should use the cards for study in free moments during the day. Over several weeks, students will find that quick repeated studying for brief periods of time is more effective than studying for hours at one sitting.
- 2. Assign graded readers at appropriate levels. Reading such books provides both enjoyment as well as meaning-focused input, which will improve student recall of the words.
- 3. Practice reading fluency to promote faster recall of word meaning for both sight recognition and usage. Compass Publishing's *Reading for Speed and Fluency* is an invaluable resource for reading fluency material.
- 4. Include listening, speaking, and writing activities in classes. Reinforcement of the high-frequency vocabulary presented in this series is important across all four language skills.



Author Paul Nation

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https://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/paul-nation

WORD LIST





acre [éikər]

n. An **acre** is a unit for measuring area. They lived on a 150-**acre** farm.



afterlife [æftərlaif]

n. The **afterlife** is a life that some people believe begins when a person dies. I believe that there is an **afterlife**.



archaeology [à:rkiálədʒi]

n. Archaeology is the study of the remains left by ancient societies.He enjoyed visiting the Great Pyramids of Egypt because he loves archaeology.



chamber [tféimbər]

n. A **chamber** is a closed space or room used for a special purpose. The meeting was held in the faculty **chamber**.



channel [tjænl]

n. A **channel** is a long, deep space between two edges. The river cut a **channel** through the rocks.



Core [ko:r]

n. A core is the main or central part of something. Earth has a solid inner core.



Corridor [kó:ridər]

n. A corridor is a narrow passage that leads into other areas. He took the corridor on the left to go to his office.



distinct [distinkt]

adj. A **distinct** thing is different or stands out. He has a **distinct** accent.



elite [eilí:t]

adj. Elite means of or from a high-level group.Only an elite group was allowed membership into the club.



engineer [èndʒiníər]

v. To **engineer** something is to skillfully plan out how to make that thing. After **engineering** the robot, they needed to find the correct parts to build it.



found [féund]

v. To **found** something means to start, organize, or establish that thing. My grandfather **founded** the City Bank.



gap [gæp]

n. A gap is a space between two things.There is a small gap between the blocks of wood.



glory [glóːri]

n. **Glory** is the importance, magnificence, or specialness of something. They enjoyed the **glory** of the beautiful sunset.



interior [intierier]

n. An **interior** is the inside of something. They looked at the **interior** of the box.



lion [láiən]

n. A **lion** is a large animal in the cat family. We went to see the **lion** at the zoo.



role [roul]

n. A role is a job, position, or part in something.Her role in the office is to sell products to customers.



royal [róiəl]

adj. Royal means related to a king or queen.
The Duchess was part of the royal family.



Sole [soul]

adj. A **sole** person or thing is the only one. She was the **sole** woman in the room.



Stairs [steerz]

n. Stairs are a set of steps built to go from one level of a building to another.
He took the stairs instead of the elevator.



■ Surface [sé:rfis]

n. The **surface** is the top layer of something.She wiped the **surface** of the table.

EXERCISES

A Circle the word that fits the definition.

 The study of ancient societies by examining their buildings, tools, and other things

- a. archaeology
- b. surface
- c. stairs
- d. corridor

2. A large animal from the cat family

- a. sole
- b. distinct
- c. sphinx
- d. lion

3. Another life that some people believe begins after death

- a. king
- b. pyramid
- c. chamber
- d. afterlife

4. A unit for measuring area

- a. royal
- b. limestone
- c. acre
- d. soul

5. The inside of something

- a. interior
- b. sphinx
- c. glory
- d. elite

B Write the word from the word bank that best fits each sentence.

WORD BANK

glory

distinct

interior

role

elite

1. Members of the _____ group were allowed to enter without a problem.

2. She had a(n) _____ birthmark on her forearm.

3. The Statue of Liberty was displayed in all its _____.

4. The _____ of the royal chamber was beautifully designed.

5. Thomas Jefferson played an important _____ in the history of the United States.

Write the phrase that best fits each sentence.

a. there was a huge gap under the door

- b. planned the design carefully
- c. she is a queen
- d. he is an only child
- e. differs by religion

1. He wanted to **engineer** the machine, so he ______.

2. Queen Elizabeth can be considered a member of the elite class because

3. He is the **sole** heir of the family fortune because _____.

4. A lion was able to come into the house because _____.

5. The idea of an afterlife and what happens after death _____.

Match to complete the words. Then write the part of speech.

archaeo • terior →

2. in • life →

3. sur • face →

4. cham • ber →

5. after • • logy →

The Great Pyramids Of Egypt

The **distinct** history of the famous Great Pyramids has been studied for many years by people who study **archaeology**. The pyramids were built nearly 5,000 years ago!

According to ancient Egyptians, kings played an important **role** in the building of the pyramids. Egyptians believed that kings were chosen by the gods and that, when a king died, he went on to become the god of the dead in the **afterlife**. Gold, food, and clothes were buried with the body so that the spirit would have these things in the afterlife. The **royal** family and other **elite** individuals were also buried near the king. Pyramids were **founded** for the **sole** reason of helping the king by containing his things for the afterlife.

The biggest of the three pyramids is known as the Great Pyramid. This structure took over twenty years to **engineer**. The Great Pyramid is made of over 2.5 million stone blocks; the base alone covers an area of thirteen **acres**. (One acre is almost the size of a football field.) The visible **core** of the Great Pyramid was originally covered by smooth casing stones. Some of the casing stones that cover the **surface** can still be seen at the base. The stones were laid so well that there is not a single **gap** between them.

The **interior** of the Great Pyramid is accessible through **stairs** that lead to a **channel**, which then divides into a **corridor** going up and another going down. The rising corridor goes up to the Queen's Chamber, the Grand Gallery, and the King's **Chamber**. The other corridor goes down to a underground chamber and an escape tunnel.

The Sphinx is a big statue of a **lion** with a human head and can be found near the Great Pyramid. The statue is also made from big stones, and it is said to guard the pyramid.

Surrounded by history and mystery, the Great Pyramids of Egypt are a popular place to visit, and tourists come from around the world to see their **glory**.

READING COMPREHENSION



Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

- 1. ____ The Great Pyramids are located in China.
- 2. ___ Kings lived in the pyramids when they were alive.
- 3. ____ The Great Pyramids of Egypt were built in 2000.
- 4. ____ A queen and king shared the same chamber inside the Great Pyramid.
- 5. ____ The Great Pyramids of Egypt are a popular spot for visitors.
- 6. ____ In the afterlife, a king went on to become the god of the pyramid.



Answer the questions.

- 1. Why did a king play an important role in ancient Egyptian culture?
 - a. He was special because he was chosen by the gods.
 - b. He built the Sphinx.
 - c. He liked gold.
 - d. He was a god during his lifetime.
- 2. Why did ancient Egyptians build the Great Pyramids?
 - a. To help their king and provide for him in the afterlife
 - b. So that Egyptians could be famous
 - c. So that people from all over the world would visit Egypt
 - d. To employ the workers who built the pyramids
- 3. Why was the king buried with gold, food, and clothing?
 - a. So he would not have to leave those things to his children
 - b. So his spirit would have everything it required in the afterlife
 - c. So the queen would miss him when he died
 - d. So that tourists would not be able to take his gold



WORD LIST





agreement [əgrí:mənt]

n. An agreement is a formal decision about future action.I think you'll get Tom's agreement to this proposal.



arise [əráiz]

v. To **arise** is to happen.

Difficulties **arose** with his computer because it was old.



■ benefactor [bénəfæktər]

n. A benefactor is a person who gives money to help someone.
 The student's benefactor gave him money to spend on his studies.



□ blacksmith [blæksmiθ]

n. A blacksmith is a person who makes things out of metal.
 The blacksmith pounded the piece of metal until it was flat.



chimney [t[imni]

n. A **chimney** is a tall pipe used to carry smoke out of a building. The cat was sitting on the roof next to the **chimney**.



Compensate [kámpensèit]

v. To **compensate** is to pay someone for the time they spent doing something. Her boss **compensated** her for the extra work she did last week.



encounter [inkáuntər]

v. To **encounter** is to find or meet a person or thing. I **encountered** a sea turtle while I was swimming.



exceed [lksí:d]

v. To exceed is to be more than something.
 Since I exceeded my limit, I decided to get rid of my credit cards.



forge [fo:rdz]

v. To **forge** is to make or produce, especially with difficulty.

Stacy and Heather **forged** their friendship when they were teenagers.



□ humble [hámbl]

adj. People who are **humble** do not believe that they are better than other people. Even though Bob is the smartest boy in his class, he is **humble**.



iron [áiərn]

n. **Iron** is a strong metal that is used to make many objects. The horse had shoes made of **iron**.



□ ladder [lædər]

n. A **ladder** is an object that is used to climb up and down things. He used a **ladder** to climb to the top of his tree house.



■ modest [mádist]

adj. If people are **modest**, they do not think that they are too important. Derek is very **modest** for someone who is so rich.



OCCUPY [άkjupài]

v. To **occupy** a place is to live, work, or be there.

Kevin and Alice **occupied** the chairs and had a long discussion.



penny [péni]

n. A penny is a coin worth one cent.US President Abraham Lincoln is on the penny.



preach [pri:tf]

v. To **preach** is to talk about and promote a religious idea. Aaron often **preached** about living an honest life.



prosper [prásper]

v. To **prosper** is to be successful or make a lot of money.

Frank's new business finally **prospered** after many years of hard work.



province [právins]

n. A province is an area that is controlled by a country.
 Canada is divided into several different provinces.



satisfaction [sætisfæk[ən]

n. **Satisfaction** is the feeling of having done or received something good. Brad was filled with **satisfaction** when he saw what was for dinner.



sustain [səstéin]

v. To sustain something is to keep it going.
Wind power is a clean way to sustain a city with energy.

A Circle the word that fits the definition.

- 1. to make or produce with difficulty
 - a. prosper
- b. arise
- c. penny
- d. forge

- 2. a person who works with metal
 - a. iron
- b. blacksmith
- c. agreement
- d. benefactor

- 3. to keep something going
 - a. exceed
- b. sustain
- c. preach
- d. occupy

- 4. an area that is part of a country
 - a. ladder
- b. province
- c. encounter
- d. compensate
- 5. thinking of oneself as not being too important
 - a. penny
- b. satisfaction
- c. chimney
- d. modest

B Circle the right definition for the given word.

- 1. benefactor
 - a. giver
- b. an area
- c. money
- d. too much

- 2. compensate
 - a. where smoke goes
- b. to shape metal
- c. a tool used to climb
- d. to pay someone

- 3. occupy
 - a. to be rich

- b. to happen
- c. to see someone you know
- d. to be in a place

- 4. iron
 - a. a small coin

b. a type of metal

c. a good feeling

d. a person who makes things with metal

- 5. exceed
 - a. to keep something going
- b. to not talk about yourself too much
- c. to be kind to others
- d. to go past a certain limit

Circle the answer that best fits the question.

- 1. Which of the following is a form of money?
 - a. A province

b. A penny

c. A blacksmith

- d. A ladder
- 2. If you meet a boy on the street, you _____ him.
 - a. exceed

b. occupy

c. encounter

- d. sustain
- 3. Which of the following is a good feeling?
 - a. Modest

b. Humble

c. Satisfaction

- d. Charitable
- 4. Which one is part of a house?
 - a. Forge

b. Compensate

c. Arise

- d. Chimney
- 5. Which word relates to religion?
 - a. Iron

b. Preach

c. Benefactor

- d. Prosper
- 6. Which of the following means to happen?
 - a. Sustain

b. Arise

c. Province

- d. Prosper
- 7. Which of the following do people use to reach high places?
 - a. A chimney

b. A blacksmith

- c. A benefactor
- d. A ladder
- 8. If you are smart with your money, then what will happen to you?
 - a. You will occupy a jail cell.
- b. You will forge a strong relationship.
- c. You will prosper.
- d. You will become humble.
- 9. What do we require from everyone before beginning something in a group?
 - a. Laughter

b. Agreement

c. Home

- d. Ladder
- 10. Which of the following describes people who think they are not better than others?
 - a. Benefactor

b. Satisfaction

c. Humble

d. Compensate



At Christmas, children wait for Saint Nicholas to bring gifts down the **chimney**. But it's not just a story. Saint Nicholas was a real person.

A long time ago, a man named Marcus **occupied** a house with his family. He was not **modest**. He always told everybody he was the strongest man in the **province**.

He worked hard, but he could barely **sustain** his family. He wanted to save money and **prosper**. Still, he could never earn a **penny** more than he needed.

One day, Marcus made an agreement with a **blacksmith**. The blacksmith had a lot of work to do, but he couldn't do it all by himself. Marcus wanted to help him **forge iron**. The blacksmith agreed to **compensate** him with a lot of money.

In the same town, there was a man named Nicholas. At an early age, Nicholas started **preaching**. But he also believed that he should be **humble** and helpful. He learned that helping people gave him even more **satisfaction** than preaching.

One day, Nicholas **encountered** Marcus. Marcus told Nicholas about his **agreement** with the blacksmith. "I worked hard for him," Marcus said, "but a problem **arose**. Even though I worked for him, he didn't pay me."

Nicholas wanted to help Marcus. That night, he went back to Marcus's house. He brought a bag of gold. It **exceeded** the amount that Marcus needed. Nicholas climbed up a **ladder** and dropped the bag of gold down the chimney. Marcus thanked his **benefactor**.

Soon, people found out about Nicholas's gift. He became well known and loved. Even today, people still give secret gifts to children. And we say they are from Saint Nicholas.



READING COMPREHENSION



Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

- 1. ____ Marcus occupied a home with Nicholas.
- 2. ____ Marcus told Nicholas about his problem when he encountered Nicholas.
- 3. ____ A problem arose for Marcus because he enjoyed preaching.
- 4. ____ Nicholas got a lot of satisfaction from being charitable and humble.
- 5. ____ Marcus was compensated by the blacksmith for helping forge iron.
- 6. ____ The money that Nicholas gave Marcus exceeded the amount he needed.



Answer the questions.

- 1. Which of the following is true about the job Marcus did?
 - a. He made pennies.
 - b. He was always compensated fairly.
 - c. He preached to people.
 - d. He barely sustained his family.
- 2. Why didn't Nicolas tell people that he gave money away?
 - a. He prospered.
 - b. He didn't want to be modest.
 - c. He wanted to be humble.
 - d. He wasn't popular in the province.
- 3. Why did Marcus want more money?
 - a. To buy more iron
- b. To feed his family
- c. To give it away
- d. To become a blacksmith



WORD LIST



Track 3-1



acquire [əkwáiər]

v. To **acquire** something is to get or gain possession of that thing. Tina **acquired** a strange package yesterday.



awkward [5:kwərd]

adj. An **awkward** thing is embarrassing and uncomfortable. After dropping his coffee cup, Robbie felt **awkward**.



□ caretaker [kéərtèikər]

n. A **caretaker** is a person who takes care of very young, old, or sick people. My grandmother's **caretaker** helps her get around the house.



deceive [disí:v]

v. To **deceive** is to make someone believe something that is not true. He tried to **deceive** his friends with a card trick.



☐ discourage [diské:ridʒ]

v. To **discourage** is to make someone feel less excited about something. Mr. Perry **discouraged** the students from quitting school.



fake [feik]

adj. A fake thing is made to look real in order to trick people.The model was wearing fake hair.



hatred [héitrid]

n. Hatred is a strong feeling of not liking someone or something.I have a hatred for the taste of medicine.



hut [hʌt]

n. A **hut** is a house made of wood, grass, or mud that has only one or two rooms. We all went into the **hut** to sleep.



inferior [infiəriər]

adj. An inferior thing is not as good as something else.Cars built a hundred years ago are inferior to ones built today.



lodge [ladʒ]

n. A **lodge** is a house in the mountains used by people who hunt or fish. During our ski trip, we stayed at a **lodge**.



neglect [niglékt]

v. To **neglect** someone or something is to not take care of it properly. William **neglected** his room, so it is a complete mess.



■ newcomer [njú:k\lambame:r]

n. A **newcomer** is a person who has recently arrived at a place or a group. The students happily welcomed the **newcomer** to the school.



Offense [əféns]

n. An **offense** is behavior that is wrong or breaks a law. Stealing a car is a very serious **offense**.



Overlook [òuvərlúk]

v. To **overlook** something is to not notice it or to not realize that it is important. Brenda **overlooked** the last step and had a bad fall.



repay [ri:péi]

v. To **repay** is to pay back or to reward someone or something. She **repaid** her friend for all of his hard work with a small gift.



ridiculous [ridíkjələs]

adj. A ridiculous thing is silly or strange.Steve looked ridiculous with those huge blue sunglasses.



satisfactory [sætisfæktəri]

adj. A satisfactory thing is good enough.Mina often received satisfactory grades since she studied so hard.



shepherd [ʃépərd]

n. A **shepherd** is a person who protects and cares for sheep. The **shepherd** moved the sheep to another field.



venture [vént[ər]

v. To **venture** is to go to a place that may be dangerous. Even though it was dangerous, they **ventured** up the mountain.



wheat [hwi:t]

n. Wheat is a plant from which we get the grain used to make bread.
The field of golden wheat was ready to be harvested.

A Circle the word that fits the definition.

- 1. a strong feeling of not liking someone or something
 - a. deceive
- b. repay
- c. offense
- d. hatred

- 2. not as good as
 - a. inferior
- b. hatred
- c. satisfactory
- d. venture

- 3. to get something
 - a. overlook
- b. discourage
- c. lodge
- d. acquire

- 4. to go to a dangerous place
 - a. wheat
- b. venture
- c. newcomer
- d. caretaker

- 5. a plant from which we get
 - a. fake
- b. wheat
- c. shepherd
- d. hut

B Circle the right definition for the given word.

- satisfactory
 - a. to pretend

b. to care for

c. good enough

d. project

- 2. newcomer
 - a. not comfortable

b. someone new to a place

c. not as good as

d. a glass lamp

- 3. repay
 - a. to give back

b. to not pay attention to

c. a house for hunting

d. a bad thing that someone does

- 4. fake
 - a. to fail to notice
 - c. to get

b. not reald. to protect

- 5. discourage
 - a. to go to a high place
- b. to dislike a lot

c. to make not real

d. to make less excited

Circle the two words in each group that are most closely related.

- 1. a. discourage
- b. lodge
- c. venture
- d. hut

- 2. a. shepherd
- b. caretaker

b. awkward

- c. repay
- d. wheatd. deceive

- 3. a. offense
- b. fake
- c. hatred c. newcomer
- d. ridiculous

- a. acquire
 a. overlook
- b. inferior
- c. neglect
- d. satisfactory

- Write the word that best fits each blank.
 - 1. fake / newcomers

The girl didn't like the _____, so she played a joke on them. She put _____ bugs in their drinks.

2. repay / neglected

She was eager to _____ the boy who had helped repair her bike. While others had simply _____ her, he was happy to help.

3. offenses / discouraged

Going to jail _____ the man from any ____ in the future.

4. shepherd / venturing

In the middle of the storm, the _____ looked for his lost sheep by _____ up the mountain.

5. deceive / ridiculous

My little brother tried to _____ us by dressing in my dad's clothes, but he just looked _____.

6. wheat / hut

The farmer built his _____ close to the ____ field so he could constantly watch it.

awkward / caretaker

After the _____ started a small fire in the kitchen, he felt very

The Shepherd and the Wild Sheep

Once, there was a **shepherd**. Every night, he gathered and counted his sheep. He made sure never to **overlook** any of them. One night, he saw some wild sheep had joined his herd. He hoped to **acquire** the **newcomers**.

It snowed that night. In the morning, the shepherd couldn't take his sheep out of his **lodge**. Instead, he had to feed them inside. He gave a small amount of **wheat** to his own sheep. But he gave more of the food to the wild sheep. He thought the extra wheat would **discourage** them from leaving.

It snowed for several days. During that time, the shepherd's sheep ate very little. The wild sheep, however, ate very well. At last, the snow melted, and they **ventured** outdoors. As soon as he opened the door of his **hut**, the wild sheep started to run away.

"Wait! This is how you **repay** me? After I treated you so kindly, why do you run away?" the shepherd asked. His voice was full of **hatred**. The wild sheep stopped and turned toward the shepherd.

"We're leaving because you fed us better than your own sheep," one of the wild sheep replied. "You tried to **deceive** us with your **ridiculous** plan. Yesterday, you treated us kindly, but tomorrow you might be different. If more wild sheep joined your herd, you would treat us as **inferior** sheep."

As the wild sheep ran away, the shepherd understood his **offense**. He knew this **awkward** situation was his own fault. He had not been a **satisfactory caretaker**. He was a **fake** friend to the wild sheep. Because of this, he had **neglected** his own sheep.



READING COMPREHENSION



Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

The shepherd counted his sheep because he didn't want to overlook any of them.
 The shepherd couldn't take the sheep outside because it was dark outside.
 The shepherd gave a little wheat to the wild sheep. But he gave his own sheep more.
 The wild sheep ran away from the shepherd after the snow melted.
 The wild sheep thought the shepherd had neglected his own sheep.
 The shepherd never knew what he had done wrong.



Answer the questions.

- 1. What was the shepherd's hope for the wild sheep?
 - a. That they wouldn't be awkward
 - b. That they would feel hatred for him
 - c. That he could acquire them
 - d. That he could repay them
- 2. How did the shepherd hope to discourage the wild sheep from running away?
 - a. By giving them extra food
- b. By locking them in his hut
- c. By selling his own sheep
- d. By being their friend
- All of the following describe what kind of caretaker the shepherd was EXCEPT ____.
 - a. fake

b. ridiculous

c. inferior

d. satisfactory



rack 3-2