

Chapter 4. The Language of News

Exercise 1. Vocabulary

1. **About** means having to do with, concerning or in connection with. **Around** means close to or near.
2. **Above** means overhead. **Over** refers to spatial relationships: The plane flew over the city. Use **more than** with numbers: He has more than \$100.
3. **Adapt** means to change or adjust something to make it fit or suitable: It took a year for them to adapt to city life. **Adept** means to be highly skilled or expert at something: She was adept at playing the violin. **Adopt** means to choose, such as adopting a child, or to take an idea and use it as your own or to vote to accept something such as an amendment, ordinance or motion.
4. **Advice** is a noun meaning an opinion given as to what to do; counsel. **Advise** is the verb form meaning to give advice to or to counsel.
5. **Affect** means to act on or to produce an effect or change. **Effect** is the consequence or result.
6. **Aid** means to give help or assistance. An **aide** is someone who helps or assists.
7. An **alley** is a narrow street or walk usually behind a row of buildings. An **ally**, as a noun, is an individual, organization or country joined with another for a common purpose. As a verb, **ally** means to unite for a specific purpose.
8. **Allude** means to refer in a casual or indirect way. **Elude** means to avoid, escape or evade.
9. An **altar** is a table or stand used for sacred purposes in a place of worship. **Alter** means to make different or modify something.
10. Use **alumnus** when referring to a man who has attended a school. **Alumni** is the plural form of alumnus. Use **alumna** when referring to a woman who has attended a school. **Alumnae** is the plural form of alumna. Use **alumni** when referring to a group of men and women.
11. **Between** introduces two items and **among** introduces more than two. However, AP style notes that **between** is the correct word when expressing the relationships of three or more items that are considered one pair at a time.
12. An **anecdote** is a short, entertaining personal or biographical story. An **antidote** is a remedy to counteract a poison or some unwanted condition.
13. An **angel** is a supernatural being of more than human power and intelligence, or a guiding spirit. An **angle** is a sharp corner; a point of view; to use tricks to get something; or to fish with a hook and line.
14. Statisticians employ several measures of central tendency or ways to describe the central value around which a group of scores clusters. The most common indicator of central tendency is the **average** or **mean**. The mean is found by adding a group of scores and then dividing by the number of scores in the group. Another measure of central tendency is the **median**. This is the value above and below which half the scores lie. A third measure of central tendency is the **mode**, or most frequent score. This is simply the score obtained by more people in the group than any other score.
15. A **bazaar** is a shop for selling a variety of goods or a sale of various items for fund-raising purposes. **Bizarre** means something odd in manner or appearance, or unexpected or unbelievable.
16. **Because** means reason or cause. **Since** is related to time: They arrived last week and have been here ever since.
17. **Bloc** means an alliance or group that acts as a single unit, as a coalition of voters; a political bloc. **Block** has many meanings; however, they do not include a political alliance.
18. **Blond** is used as a noun for men and as an adjective: He and she have blond hair. Use **blonde** as a noun for females: The blonde wore a blue dress.
19. **Born** means to be brought into life or being. It also means having certain qualities innately: A born athlete. **Borne** is a past participle of bear meaning to give birth to.
20. A **burglar** is someone who illegally enters a building with the intent to steal money or property. A **robber** threatens or actually uses force or violence to steal. A **swindler** uses fraud or deceit to