

Unit 11 - Getcha Word Up

11A Introduction

What would we be without words? Chimpanzees. So get your word up.

11B Song Lyrics

*We get your word up,
We get your word up,
We get your word up,
We getcha getcha word up.
X2*

If you're throwing a party, man, I'll be there tonight,
I'm so **vital**, like I'm needed for life.
The land might be **arid** and totally dry,
But, hey, yeah I'll make it rain tonight.
How many people can your house contain and
accommodate? I'll roll up in my Hyundai with my prom date.
Like a swarm of killer bees, we **swarm**
And fly together, why? Because we're fly together.
Party's at nine? I need ten minutes **leeway**,
Extra time, press rewind or replay.
I step in the door, like I'm friendly and **cordial**
Toward anybody that I knew from before.
T., I must **commend** and congratulate you, man,
This party right here is my favorite jam.
So many people, it's **compact** and it's so tight,
So I grabbed the mic, and rock-rocked it like...

*Hook
x4*

I wanted to dance, but my hopes **plummeted**
And fell, when I saw there was none of it.
No one was moving, everyone was **stationary**,
So I picked up my Word Up dictionary.
I **declared** and announced out loud,
That people were about to get down.
I put on a beat, and it went like this,
Kick-a-boom, kick-a-boom, kick-a-boom...
People were **transported** and moved
Across the dance floor, it was cool.
You could say I have a talent or a **knack**,
For giving the people the hottest rap.
I never make a careless mistake or blunder,
With my words, I rumble like thunder.
I'll **soothe** a bad mood, make it calm and chill,
So get your Word Up on the real.

*Hook
x6*



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11C Words Defined

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. accommodate (verb) 1. to do a favor or service for 2. to hold comfortably without crowding

1. We made burgers, but also veggie burgers to *accommodate* the vegetarians. 2. The bus *accommodates* 50 passengers.

Other forms: The word *accommodation* (noun) can mean both the act of *accommodating* and also a place to stay like a hotel or lodge.

2. arid (adj) extremely dry

The farmland was so *arid* that no crops could grow.

Antonyms: wet, moist

3. blunder (noun) a careless mistake

It was quite a *blunder* when the principal cancelled school because he thought there would be a snowstorm: not a single snowflake fell.

Synonyms: error, slip-up

Other forms: *Blunder* is also a verb meaning "to make a mistake," as in: The announcer *blundered* the names of the musicians in the performance; he couldn't pronounce any of them.

4. compact (adj) dense, solid or packed together

The doughnuts were so *compact* in the box that their frosting was coming off.

5. commend (verb) to congratulate or praise

Makela, I must *commend* you for a job well done.

Antonyms: to insult, to diss

Other forms: A *commendable* (adj) job is one that is worthy of praise and may receive a *commendation* (noun).

6. cordial (adj) friendly and warm

He gave me a *cordial* greeting when I got off the plane.

Antonyms: cold, distant

Other forms: *Acordial* (noun) is a strong, sweet, alcoholic drink.

7. declare (verb) to make known officially; to announce

After hearing how children were being treated in African mines, Krystal declared that she was against buying diamonds.

Synonyms: to pronounce, to state

Other forms: If you declare something, you make a *declaration* (noun).

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8. **knack** (noun) a clever skill, or a special way of doing something

David had a *knack* for computer programming; he had been doing it since he was six.

9. **leeway** (noun) extra time, space or materials to work with, or a bit of freedom

My parents are very relaxed, so they gave us plenty of *leeway* when it came to building a tree house.
Synonyms: flexibility

10. **plummet** (verb) to fall straight down

The skydiver was going to *plummet* from the plane into the darkness of the night and land on the top of a hotel in Las Vegas.

Synonyms: to plunge, drop

Antonyms: to ascend, increase, rise

11. **soothe** (verb) to calm or comfort (someone); to ease or relieve pain

My neck was completely burned from the sun, but the cream helped to *soothe* my skin.

Antonyms: to upset

Other forms: Something that *soothes* can be *soothing* (adj), like a mother's voice to a baby.

12. **stationary** (adj) standing still, not moving

The gym had lots of *stationary* bikes; even though you didn't go anywhere, you got a good workout.

13. **swarm** (verb) to move or gather in large numbers (as with bees)

The kids on my block *swarmed* to the ice cream truck last night.

Other forms: A *swarm* (noun) also means "a large number of insects moving together," and is especially used to describe bees.

14. **transport** (verb) to carry or move from one place to another

Susanna was *transporting* the stolen TVs across town when the cops caught her.

Synonyms: to carry, convey

Other forms: *Transport* can also be a noun, meaning "a vehicle that carries something, especially a plane or ship."

15. **vital** (adj) necessary to life

Having its mother's milk was *vital* to the kitten's survival.

Synonyms: essential, critical

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11D Fix the Mistake

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. The ancient Egyptians constructed pyramids in the middle of the desert, despite the hot and **cordial** weather conditions.

2. My mom has a special **leeway** for easily finding everything that I misplace.

3. The firefighters helped **plummet** the people out safely.

4. The photographers **declared** the celebrity as she walked to her car.

5. The medical staff checked all of the man's **compact** organs to make sure he had not suffered any life-threatening internal injuries.

6. In 1949, Congress and President Truman officially **accommodated** June 14th as National Flag Day.

7. Statues are **vital** objects, unlike real people.

8. It was a **stationary** Thanksgiving dinner; a food fight did not break out.

9. In order to perform the "cannonball" jump, Johnny had to make his body **arid** before splashing into the deep end of the swimming pool.

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10. While walking through the park, I found that bird droppings had **soothed** down on top of my head.

11. You can use a pack of ice to help **commend** a burn.

12. After Terrell rolled his ankle, he was given some **blunder** and allowed to complete the mile in gym class.

13. Ashley had to rent some extra tables and chairs to **transport** seating for all of the guests.

14. After a long career, the police officer was **swarmed** for great work at a special awards dinner.

15. Lenny made a **knack** and accidentally called the wrong telephone number.

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11E Pick the Winner

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. The little boy squeezed his hands together (**compactly OR cordially**) and prayed that his beloved pet would not die.

2. The state of Arizona has a very (**vital OR arid**) climate.

3. The baby mix-up at the hospital was a huge (**blunder or leeway**) made by the nursing staff.

4. The United States (**plummets OR transports**) many goods to other countries all across the world.

5. The cruise ship was huge and provided excellent (**accommodations OR stationary**) for everyone on board.

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11F Draw the Relationship

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1

soothe	plummet	leeway	calm
important	flexibility	vital	climb

.....

2

blunder	carry away	compact	transport
packed in	arid	mix-up	wet

.....

3

announce	make room for	insult	crowd together
declare	accommodate	commend	swarm

.....

4

skill	cordial	keep private	declare
knack	stationary	unfriendly	moving

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11G Understanding What You Read

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

My family has always been into attending sporting events. In fact, many of our family summer vacations have been centered around our love for watching games up close and personal. Last summer it was my brother's turn to pick the event and he chose the World Hot Dog Eating Championship held in Coney Island!

I really didn't know what to expect when we first arrived to Coney Island. I quickly learned that the sport was very popular and Coney Island was a really cool place to host the event. When we first arrived, the sponsors of the event were very accommodating. They had bleachers set up that we could sit in and the stationary stage was easy to see. On the stage, there was a very long table set up with mounds of hot dogs piled on it. I couldn't believe my eyes! "All of those hot dogs would be eaten today?" I thought to myself. It looked like there were enough to feed an elephant for a week, if elephants ate hot dogs.

It wasn't long before the contestants entered the outdoor arena and made their way onto the stage. They were cordial to one another and many of them shook hands. Most of them were middle-aged, overweight guys, but one of them was a skinny, young Japanese guy. I learned from my brother that his name was Takeru Kobayashi, and he was the returning champion. Then the announcer introduced each of the contestants by name and explained that they were all trained professionals. He explained that no one should ever try a stunt like this at home, that it was more dangerous than most people think. Finally, after a countdown, the contestants started to eat.

The contestants had twelve minutes to try and eat as many hot dogs as they could, and boy, were they eating them fast! The hot dog buns must have made the contestants' mouths really dry too, because they sure drank a lot of water in between dogs. I think the water probably helped soothe their throats. Five minutes into the event, I couldn't believe how many hot dogs had been swallowed, but the contestants kept going. Their pace started to slow down a bit, but as the clock started winding down, the race was still close. The announcer came over the loud speaker again and conducted another countdown: "5, 4, 3, 2, 1.....game over!"

It was close, but there was a clear-cut winner – the champion, Takeru Kobayashi. Even though he was the smallest, he ate far more than the other contestants. In twelve minutes he had eaten fifty-three hot dogs. The crowd started going crazy, chanting Kobayashi's name, and photographers swarmed the stage as the announcer declared Kobayashi the winner. Kobayashi looked very happy, but at the same time, he looked a little sick from eating so much so fast. Many people stormed up onto the stage to commend him, but I had no desire to do so. Would you want to be that close to someone if they got sick and started to throw up fifty-three hot dogs? Yeah, I didn't think so.

1. The narrator mentions elephants in the second paragraph in order to

- (A) show how gross the contestants were
- (B) talk about the crazy things he or she saw at Coney Island
- (C) describe the smell of the event
- (D) express how many hot dogs were going to be eaten

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2. The narrator of the story felt that

- (A) Coney Island was too crowded
- (B) Coney Island was too large
- (C) Coney Island was a cool place
- (D) Coney Island was too small

3. According to the text, the family

- (A) loves to eat slowly
- (B) enjoys going to summertime events
- (C) argues a lot
- (D) likes hot dogs

4. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by facts from the reading passage?

- (A) There are only two kids in this family.
- (B) Attending the hot dog eating contest was the brother's idea.
- (C) Many people went on stage after the contest was over.
- (D) The winner of the contest ate over 50 hot dogs.

5. The announcer tells the audience that

- (A) hot dogs can be lethal
- (B) only men win the competition
- (C) the winner will be invited back next year
- (D) having a hot dog eating contest on your own is not a good idea

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11H Thinking Creatively

accommodate / arid / blunder / commend / compact / cordial / declare / knack / leeway / plummet / soothe / stationary / swarm / transport / vital

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. In the word **transport**, if the prefix “trans” means “across,” what could the root “port” mean?

2. If you had the power to **declare** a new national holiday what would it be and why?

3. What's the difference between **commend** and **recommend**?

4. What could a movie called *A Cat with a Knack* be about?

5. How could the word “stay” relate to **stationary**?

Word Breakdown

The word *transport* has two distinct parts: a prefix (“trans”) and a root (“port”). The word comes from Latin. Big surprise, right? In Latin, “trans” means “across.” You can see it in words like transform (to change across different forms) and transplant (to plant something across to a new place). A flight from New York and London is called a transatlantic flight because it goes *across* the Atlantic Ocean. The root “port” means “to carry.” A portable TV is one that you can carry around. So together, “trans-port” means “to carry across.” All of those big trucks on the highway that transport food are just *carrying* the food *across* the country.