

## Unit 14 - We Innovate

### 14A Introduction

As the creators of Flocabulary, we've been interviewed on many TV shows: CNN, MTV, Fox News, and others. Sometimes, the hosts of the shows ask us smart questions. But most of the time, they don't. We've had our share of terrible questions over the years. This song is for all the TV hosts out there. It explains where we come from.

### 14B Song Lyrics

We **originated** Word Up, we began it,  
Now we rock harder than granite.  
A **mere** three years ago, no more than that,  
We started this here Flocab.

We add strength to, we **reinforce**  
The idea that we need more  
**Innovations**, something new,  
Like an iPod that cooks up your dinner too.

We're so **efficient**, we work so well,  
Deliver to your room, like a hotel.  
We're **eligible** and qualified to rock the mic:  
Spicy like taco night.

We just want you to **prosper** and have success,  
So never settle for less than the best.  
We're not **omniscient**, aware of it all,  
We're dealing with life and carrying on.

You could try to **persecute** and harass me,  
But if you need something, just ask me.  
Some people try to **diminish** my skill in a minute,  
Make less of it, but no, I'm not finished.

Alexander the Great said he wasn't afraid  
Of many lions with a lamb leading the way,  
But of a lion leading a lamb parade.  
OK, that's not an exact quote, I **paraphrased**.

I'm making an **appeal** for help, I'm asking  
For everybody in the class to start clapping.  
Life's tests are **rigorous** and severe,  
I get paid for putting rhymes up in your ear.  
(*Toe-tap to Flocab, and know that we're so phat.*)

Song's over, no wait, there's a **supplement**,  
A little more, so stay up on it.  
Stay true to you, and you won't feel **remorse**  
or regret over things that you didn't do.



Breaking News: Hip-Hop in the Classroom



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### 14C Words Defined

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

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. appeal** (noun) an urgent request, a plea

We didn't like the store clerk's answer, so we made an *appeal* to the manager.  
Other forms: *Appeal* can also be a verb. You can *appeal* for help, when you ask for assistance.

**2. diminish** (verb) to reduce or lessen the effect of something

They were afraid the cheating would *diminish* the usefulness of the test.  
Synonyms: to weaken, make less of, fade  
Antonyms: to grow, strengthen

**3. efficient** (adj) making good use of available time or resources

The cafeteria workers were *efficient* and quickly cut the giant cake into small portions.  
Antonyms: slow, wasteful, inefficient  
Other forms: The measurable quality of being efficient is called *efficiency* (noun). People or things can work *efficiently* (adv).

**4. eligible** (adj) qualified to do or receive something

Since Jimmy hadn't passed sixth grade, he wasn't *eligible* for seventh grade.  
Antonyms: ineligible, unable  
Other forms: The quality of being eligible is called *eligibility* (noun).

**5. innovation** (noun) something new and different

The car we had was loaded with *innovations* that made driving safer.  
Synonyms: invention, advancement  
Other forms: Being able to come up with *innovations* means you are *innovative* (adj.). Creating new things is *innovating* (verb).

**6. mere** (adj) not more than, only

My relationship with Becca lasted a *mere* two weeks.  
Synonyms: meager

**7. omniscient** (adj) all-knowing and all seeing

Some people believe in an *omniscient* god, while others have a different opinion.

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**8. originate** (verb) to begin or start up

The practice of dancing with other people in a large circle *originated* thousands of years ago when people would dance around a fire.

Other forms: If something *originates* at a certain time, then it has a specific *origin* (noun) or source. If something is one of a kind, it's *original* (adjective).

**9. paraphrase** (verb) to summarize in a way that simplifies a concept

We were always asked to *paraphrase* difficult passages so we could understand them.

Other forms: *Paraphrase* can also be a noun meaning "a rewording of something".

**10. persecute** (verb) to target someone or something for punishment or mistreatment

In Spain, many Jews were *persecuted* by the Catholic government.

Synonyms: to harass, discriminate

Other forms: the act of persecuting someone or something is called *persecution* (noun)

**11. prosper** (verb) to be successful and fortunate

Though he started life with very little, Carnegie worked hard and eventually *prospered*.

Other forms: *Prosperity* (noun) is the state of being successful.

**12. reinforce** (verb) to add more strength to something

The only reason for learning fractions again was to *reinforce* the basic math we learned last year.

Antonyms: to weaken

Other forms: A thing that *reinforces* is a *reinforcement* (noun).

**13. remorse** (noun) deep, painful regret

Immediately after Ward hit the bird with his car, he was filled with a sense of *remorse*.

**14. rigorous** (adj) demanding and tough; severe

We were so impressed that we made it through the *rigorous* boot camp that we went out and celebrated.

Synonyms: harsh, hard

Other forms: *Rigor* is a noun meaning "severity." Can you survive the *rigors* of a Russian winter?

**15. supplement** (noun) something added to complete a thing

The vitamins were nothing but a *supplement* to his rigid workout routine.

Other forms: *Supplement* can also be a verb meaning "to add something extra to": I like to *supplement* my meal with a glass of milk.

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**14D Fix the Mistake**

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

*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. Don't just repeat the entire speech; try to **reinforce** it for me.

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2. Bridget hoped that her unique **supplement** would win first place at the local science fair.

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3. I could barely sew, but I still had the dream of **persecuting** as a tailor.

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4. *High School Musical* **prospered** as a television show, but then it became a famous movie.

---

5. The lawyer filed an **innovation** requesting that her client be given a second trial.

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6. The training included many **mere** physical workouts.

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7. The police officer wasn't **eligible**, but he had a good hunch as to where the criminal was hiding.

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8. Legally, Arnold Schwarzenegger is not **efficient** to run for U.S. President because he was not born on United States soil.

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9. The stadium lights **originated** as we drove farther and farther away from the ballpark.

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10. Shakwana replaced some boards to **diminish** the rail on the balcony.

\_\_\_\_\_

11. The deleted scenes are a **remorse** to the original DVD movie.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Unfortunately, some people are **paraphrased** for their beliefs.

\_\_\_\_\_

13. A **rigorous** five cents kept Vincent from purchasing the new comic book.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. The maid was very **omniscient** at cleaning rooms quickly.

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Damien felt a lot of **appeal** after disobeying his father.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**14E Pick the Winner**

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

*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. Dee decided to **(diminish OR supplement)** her wardrobe with a new dress.

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2. Jasmine **(paraphrased OR prospered)** Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

---

3. George was **(efficient OR mere)** and solved the Rubik's cube first.

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4. The woman made an **(innovation OR appeal)** for help when her car ran out of gas on the side of the road.

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5. In order to be **(efficient OR eligible)** to play school sports, students have to be passing all of their classes.

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**14F Draw the Relationship**

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

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**

make a demand

originate

bully

persecute

appeal

eligible

disqualified

create

**2**

something extra

weaken

innovative

reinforce

simply

original

supplement

merely

**3**

effective

difficult

grow

diminish

quote exactly

rigorous

efficient

paraphrase

**4**

ask

prosper

remorse

appeal

fail

complete awareness

omniscience

guilt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 14G Understanding What You Read

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

It was an ordinary summer day in the suburbs, and Cody was bored out of his mind. He had no money to go to the movies. He couldn't even afford a soda. So Cody flipped on his computer to surf the Internet. Before long, he stumbled across something that sparked an idea. To make money, he'd start his own business.

Cody knew he wasn't eligible for government loans because he was too young, but he did feel that he could succeed. He was an efficient typist, great at videogames, good at math, and loved dogs. He needed to be careful in his selection, however, since he wanted the business to prosper. To make sure he didn't get involved in something that would fail, Cody thought about his weaknesses: cooking, swimming, and completing tasks on time. After thinking about the possibilities for a few hours, he knew he didn't want to be a lifeguard, a lawn-mower, a babysitter, or work at a car wash. A few hours later, he decided what to do: He would start a business that would take care of people's pets when they were away.

His idea was perfect. It involved one of his interests and it was the perfect time of year to start the new business. People generally go on vacation in the summertime and need someone to take care of their pets. Cody could easily feed, bathe, and walk the pets if needed, and he was available all hours of the day. He decided to make flyers and post them around the neighborhood, advertising his new business. The flyers read:

*For a mere \$2 a day, I can feed and keep your pet company! Supplemental services such as bathing and cleaning animal waste are also available for a small fee - just mention when you call.*

Cody included his name and telephone number on the flyers, and spent the afternoon posting them all over the neighborhood. Within three days, Cody had already booked seven different appointments, ranging from two days to an entire week of services. He was very proud of his accomplishment. Though the work would be rigorous, Cody knew he wouldn't be bored this summer.

#### 1. According to the text, Cody was talented when it came to

- (A) cooking
- (B) feeding cats
- (C) mowing lawns
- (D) typing

#### 2. After reading the passage, I can infer that

- (A) Cody's next job will be as a lifeguard
- (B) Cody's business will definitely succeed
- (C) Cody likes animals
- (D) Cody surfs the Internet all the time

#### 3. According to the text, which of the following is NOT true?

- (A) Cody lives outside the city.
- (B) Cody will clean your dog for extra money.
- (C) Cody is omniscient.
- (D) Cody is ready to work hard.



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**4. The main character of this story felt**

- (A) remorse after starting his business
- (B) confident after starting his business
- (C) persecuted after starting his business
- (D) eligible after starting his business

**5. What is the main idea of this reading passage?**

- (A) Pets are more important to take care of than people.
- (B) Kids should all start their own business.
- (C) It is possible to start a business that you are good at and enjoy.
- (D) All kids are bored during summer break.

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### 14H Thinking Creatively

appeal / diminish / efficient / eligible / innovation / mere / omniscient / originate / paraphrase / persecute / prosper / reinforce / remorse / rigorous / supplement

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

1. What would a **rigorous appeal** be?

---

2. If **omniscient** means "all knowing" and omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and meat, what do you think *omni* means?

---

3. What is the **origin** of human life?

---

4. Describe the plot of a book called *Diminishing Hope*.

---

5. Do you think bullies ever feel **remorse** after **persecuting** others? Explain why or why not.

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### Word Breakdown

The word *innovate* is related to the term *supernova*, which is what happens when a star explodes. If you think the explosions of fireworks on the Fourth of July are impressive, when a star explodes in a supernova, it releases as much light in a few weeks as the sun emits in 10 billion years. A supernova is so bright that it often shines brighter than whole galaxies (which are made up of millions and millions of stars).

Slightly less super is a nova, which is when a star suddenly becomes thousands of times brighter before fading from view. The word *nova* comes from the Latin *novus* meaning "new." In this case, they were new explosions of light. The word *innovate* can be broken down to *in-nov-ate*. The *in* means "into." The *nov* means "new." And the "ate" means "to make." So *innovate* means to make something into something new.