

Food Crops

Target Words

1. abandon
2. adversely
3. aggregate
4. cultivation
5. fertilize
6. intensify
7. irrigation
8. obtain
9. photosynthesis
10. precipitation

Definitions and Samples

1. **abandon** *v.* To leave; to give up

To save their lives, the sailors had to **abandon** the sinking ship.

Parts of speech abandonment *n*

2. **adversely** *adv.* In a harmful way; negatively

Excessive rainfall early in the spring can **adversely** affect the planting of crops.

Usage tips *Adversely* is often followed by *affect*.

Parts of speech adversity *n*, adverse *adj*

3. **aggregate** *adj.* Gathered into or amounting to a whole

It is impossible to judge last year's performance without knowing the **aggregate** sales numbers.

Usage tips *Aggregate* is often followed by a term like *sum*, *total*, or *numbers*.

Parts of speech aggregate *v*, aggregate *n*

4. **cultivation** *n.* Preparing the land to grow crops; improvement for agricultural purposes

With the development of land **cultivation**, hunters and gatherers were able to settle in one place.

Parts of speech cultivate *v*

5. **fertilize** *v.* To supply with nourishment for plants by adding helpful substances to the soil

This farm **fertilizes** tomatoes more than any other crop.

Parts of speech fertilizer *n*, fertilization *n*

6. **intensify** *v.* To increase in power; to act with increased strength

Jacob's long absence **intensified** his certainty that he should marry Rose.

Parts of speech intensification *n*, intense *adj*

7. **irrigation** *n.* The supplying of water to dry land

In dry areas of the country, you can see ditches all over the farmland for **irrigation**.

Parts of speech irrigate *v*

8. **obtain** *v.* To gain possession of; to get

After a series of difficult interviews, he finally was able to **obtain** the job.

9. **photosynthesis** *n.* The process by which green plants make their own food by combining water, salts, and carbon dioxide in the presence of light.

Oxygen is a by-product of the process of **photosynthesis**.

Parts of speech photosynthesize *v*

10. **precipitation** *n.* Water that falls to the Earth's surface

In the Pacific Northwest, the high level of **precipitation** ensures rich, green plant life.

TOEFL Prep I Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word from the list. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

abandoned precipitation cultivation fertilize photosynthesis

1. Through _____, green plants create organic materials with the help of chlorophyll.
2. The coastal city gets half of its _____ during the months of January, February, and March.
3. Farmers use various methods of land _____.
4. When they heard the hull crack, all but two of the sailors _____ ship.
5. Inexperienced gardeners may not realize how important it is that they _____ their plants.

TOEFL Prep II Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| _____ 1. obtain | (a) weaken |
| _____ 2. intensify | (b) separate |
| _____ 3. irrigation | (c) lose |
| _____ 4. aggregate | (d) drainage |
| _____ 5. adversely | (e) positively |

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

In countries like Niger and Mauritania, the *cultivation* of land has changed little in the past several centuries. Additionally, these countries' mono-modal rainfall pattern brings *precipitation* for only three months during the year. **As a result**, food production doesn't nearly meet demand.

Bonus Structure—
As a result means
“therefore,” “for
this reason.”

Several agencies and organizations have *intensified* their efforts to increase the productivity of land in these countries. They have introduced new strains of seed, improved *irrigation* techniques, and introduced new methods of *fertilization* and soil management. With ample sunlight for *photosynthesis* and modern *irrigation* techniques, sustainable farming techniques should allow farmers to boost *aggregate* production in order to meet demand.

Still, crop revitalization faces an unexpected adversary: institutional incompetence. Where crop specialists have convinced individual farmers to *abandon* old farming techniques in place of new, they can't readily *obtain* the governmental cooperation they need. The biggest hurdles are political corruption, incompetence, and the absence of a marketing infrastructure.

1. In this passage, the word adversary is closest in meaning to
 - a. friend
 - b. helper
 - c. enemy
 - d. leader

2. In the last paragraph, the word they refers to
 - a. crop specialists
 - b. farmers
 - c. farming techniques
 - d. adversaries

Lesson 1 Food Crops

TOEFL Prep I 1. photosynthesis 2. precipitation 3. cultivation
4. abandoned 5. fertilize

TOEFL Prep II 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. e

TOEFL Success 1. c 2. a