

Unit 5 - Big Up Yourself

5A Introduction

Everybody needs a confidence boost sometimes. This song is ours.

5B Song Lyrics

We're extra large, like XXL,
Excellent, outdo others, we **excel**.
They spit a rhyme and their skill's **depleted**,
Used up, they need a tune-up, look who's up.
I'm honored and **esteemed** by the mamas and the deans,
The Dalai Lama and Sting and everyone in between.
I mean, they're so useless, they're **futile**,
On the mic, call Lauryn Hill for a new style.

At six foot two, I'm **prominent**, I mean
I stand out, I'm confident. Overshadow or **eclipse** the uncertain because they don't believe in
themselves they're not confident. The mood could be **eerie** or scary,
But I won't let it near me, clearly.
You hear me? Your body movements are controlled
And **influenced** by instruments.

Everybody big up yourself...

Some of those people say that we're unsafe
And **hazardous**, but don't get mad at us.
They say that change is bad, but not for us,
We never stay the same, we're not **monotonous**.
I'm hot like the sun, I'm oh so **solar**,
I go to Minnesota to get a cold soda.
Ooooooh, my lines are **dense** and so compact,
You need a brainiac to unpack my raps.

The **effect** or result of my mic control
Is to give you heat to beat the cold.
My mission or **quest** is to be the best,
So you can bet this MC's passed the test.
The fact is, I'm **unique**, one of a kind,
I'm out of sight much like the blind.
Flocab and Reason, not hard to find
Because we're in your memory, stuck in your mind.

Hook

5C Words Defined

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. dense (adj) tightly packed in

The crowd was so *dense*, it was impossible to move down the street.

Synonyms: compact

Antonyms: thin, sparse

2. deplete (verb) to use up

Brenda owns so many cats that she is going to *deplete* the pet store's supply of cat food.

3. eclipse (verb) to overshadow or surpass

Her acting ability will *eclipse* those of her peers in no time because she rehearses all day.

Other forms: *Eclipse* is also a noun used to describe a large blockage of light. When the sun's light is blocked out by the moon, that's a solar *eclipse*.

4. eerie (adj) weird, scary or creepy

The abandoned orphanage was especially *eerie* at night.

5. effect (noun) a result or consequence

The *effect* of not taking the garbage out was the loss of my weekly allowance.

6. esteem (verb) to honor or think of highly

Mr. Stewart *esteemed* his students for their honesty when they told him he had given out a test with the answers printed on the back.

Synonyms: to admire

Other Forms: *Esteem* can also be a noun meaning "admiration, honor or reverence," as in: Bart, a kindergartner, holds his teacher in high *esteem*.

7. excel (verb) to outdo or surpass; to be extremely talented at

My sister will try to *excel* at her new job in hopes of getting a raise in salary or a promotion.

8. futile (adj) useless

It was *futile* for my mom to try to talk her way out of her speeding ticket with the policeman.

Synonyms: pointless, hopeless

Antonyms: useful, fruitful

9. hazardous (adj) dangerous or risky

Many firefighters enter *hazardous* situations in order to save victims from burning buildings.

Antonyms: safe, secure

10. influence (verb) to sway or affect

Whenever Grady baby-sits his little sister, he always tries to *influence* her to go to bed early by giving her candy.

Other forms: The *influence* (noun) of drugs and alcohol in Stella's neighborhood was too much, and she gave in to the pressure.

11. monotonous (adj) having very little variety; staying the same; boring

Working on an assembly line was a very *monotonous* job for Eddie who liked to be active and outside.

Synonyms: repetitive, dull

Antonyms: varied, interesting

Other forms: The *monotony* (noun) of being a lifeguard all summer long started to wear on me in mid-August.

12. prominent (adj) well-known or noticeable

Dumbo is a *prominent* cartoon character, and his ears are his most *prominent feature*.

Synonyms: sticking out, obvious, famous

13. quest (noun) a search or pursuit

The pirates were on a *quest* for gold treasure.

Synonyms: mission, expedition, hunt

Other forms: *Quest* can also be a verb meaning “to search for,” as in: Jim *quested* after treasure, but never found any.

14. solar (adj) relating to the sun

My parents put *solar* panels on our roof to help our pool stay heated.

15. unique (adj) one of a kind

The insect that I captured was so *unique* that biologists from three different countries were contacting me about it.

Synonyms: distinctive

Antonyms: common, normal

5D Fix the Mistake

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. Ferris Bueller's teacher was very boring and his tone of voice was **solar**.

2. By casting votes online and by phone, the public can **esteem** the winner of *American Idol*.

3. Breathing in second-hand smoke is **futile** to your own health.

4. Because she's everywhere on the radio, you can say Rihanna is a **unique** artist in the music industry.
-
5. In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an **effect** to explore the Louisiana Territory.
-
6. While many fail, Ice Cube has **depleted** as both a rapper and an actor.
-
7. During the month of October, our teacher read **monotonous** Halloween stories to us.
-
8. Kayla felt it was **hazardous** to memorize all of her friends' phone numbers since she had so many friends.
-
9. Jupiter is the largest planet in the **prominent** system.
-
10. After his fifth bowl of cereal, Zachary realized that he had **influenced** all of the milk in the fridge.
-
11. My uncle's automobile is **dense** because it looks more like a spaceship than a car.
-
12. After Matthew won first place in the state spelling bee contest for the third year in a row, we **eclipsed** him with a special school assembly.
-
13. It will be a long time before my new baby sister will be able to eat **eerie** food since she doesn't have any teeth.
-
14. The Mariners pitcher's no-hitter **depleted** the fact that Ichiro went 5 for 5 at the plate in the same game.
-
15. Oregon becoming a U.S. state was one **quest** of pioneers moving west.
-

5E Pick the Winner

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. Not climbing to the top of Mt. Everest was an **(effect OR eerie)** of my fear of heights.

2. _____
3. Javier **(eclipsed OR excelled)** in the sport of cross country skiing when he won three blue ribbons this season.

4. _____
5. The chemical spill was **(futile OR hazardous)** for the workers to clean up.

6. _____
7. The **(solar OR dense)** panels on the roof of my house trap in heat and then supply heat to our family's entire home.

8. _____
9. Species are **(esteeming or depleting)** since every day rainforests are being cut down.

10. _____

5F Draw the Relationship

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	normal	eerie	prominent	excel
	effect	do extremely well	consequence	well-known
.....				
2	journey	dense	influence	quest
	esteem	pressure or sway	not valued	closely packed in

3

lively

increase

sunny

deplete

solar

monotonous

useful

futile

4

stand out

eclipse

prominent

hazardous

common

safe

hide from view

unique

5G Understanding What You Read

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

I have been fascinated by eclipses all of my life. As a young girl, I remember feeling something magical the first time I saw the moon pass in front of the sun. My whole neighborhood stood in a deep shadow, and I knew from that day on, I would study eclipses. Now, I am a professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan. In fact, I'm a prominent astronomer in this country, mostly because I'm an expert on eclipses.

Eclipses are unique events that occur in the solar system and can be observed from planet Earth or other locations. On average, only four to seven eclipses can be seen from Earth each year. Some are what we call "total eclipses," but usually they are only "partial." A total eclipse is the most impressive to see.

An eclipse occurs when one object in space moves into the shadow of another. Planets and stars cast shadows just like people and trees do. A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon moves into the shadow cast by the Earth. The effect is usually a little eerie: A circle-shaped shadow passes over the moon until it's very hard to see. After about 90 minutes, however, the moon will be visible again.

Solar eclipses are even more breathtaking. During a solar eclipse, the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, blocking out the sun's rays. In many ancient cultures, solar eclipses were thought to be a sign that the end of the world was coming or that gods were angry. Today we understand them to be simple astronomical events, but they are still an amazing sight. In fact, I've gone on eclipse-chasing quests, traveling to China just to see solar eclipses. This is necessary because some eclipses are only visible in certain parts of the world.

One thing is very important, however: Looking directly at the sun, even during a solar eclipse, can be very hazardous. You might seriously damage your eyes. So enjoy eclipses, but make sure you view them safely.

1. According to the text,

- (A) lunar eclipses are the most amazing to watch
- (B) viewing a lunar eclipse can kill you
- (C) viewing a solar eclipse can kill you
- (D) solar eclipses are the most amazing to watch

2. Which best describes the author of the piece?

- (A) a girl who excels at studying eclipses
- (B) a guy who is an astronomy expert
- (C) a teacher who has loved eclipses all her life
- (D) a government scientist

3. According to the text, an eclipse happens when

- (A) a planet or other object moves into the shadow of something else
- (B) the sun blocks out the moon
- (C) the Earth blocks out the sun
- (D) the sun blocks out the Earth

4. Why does the author enjoy studying eclipses?

- (A) They are a mystery she is trying to solve.
- (B) They indicate that the world is coming to an end.
- (C) As a girl, she was amazed by a solar eclipse.
- (D) As a professor, she must teach all subjects in astronomy.

5. Which of the statements is FALSE?

- (A) Usually less than ten eclipses can be seen from Earth each year.
- (B) A lunar eclipse is a little bit spooky to watch.
- (C) A lunar eclipse can be hazardous to your eyesight.
- (D) Some eclipses are only visible on one side of the world.

5H Thinking Creatively

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

1. Why do you think a pond on a golf course is called a water **hazard**?

2. Who is a more **prominent** figure in history: Abraham Lincoln or John F. Kennedy?

3. Describe something that is **monotonous** in your life.

4. Microsoft named one of their computer programs **Excel**. Why was this a good or bad choice?

5. Describe something that makes you a **unique** individual.

Word Breakdown

It's very easy to mix up the words *effect* and *affect*. After all, they're pronounced the same way. The key difference is that "effect" is a noun, but "affect" is a verb. "Affect" means "to act upon or change," (much like the word "influence"). "Effect" means "result." So my memory was affected when I was hit on the head. Or the effect of getting hit on the head was a loss of memory. The difference is tricky, but not if you remember this simple rhyme:

*If it's a verb, it's "A," if it's a noun, it's "E,"
Now the word effect sounds so easy.*

The word *monotonous* is interesting too. "Mono" means "one," like a "monorail" (a train track with one rail) or "monopoly" (one company that owns a lot). "Ton" is short for "tone," as in ring tones or the tone of your voice. The ending "ous" just means that it is an adjective like "continuous." So the word *monotonous* really means "one toned," having only one sound. Nowadays you can use the word to mean things that are generally repetitive or boring. As the rapper Big Daddy Kane once warned other emcees: "Your tough talk is monotonous."