

AWESOME STORIES

VISUAL VOCABULARY BUILDER

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

contortionist ♡ depression ♡ horrific ♡ insufficient ♡ pachyderm
♡ paraffin ♡ perilous ♡ plastered ♡ predatory ♡ vicious

Contortionist* ♡ performer who can twist his/her body in unusual ways

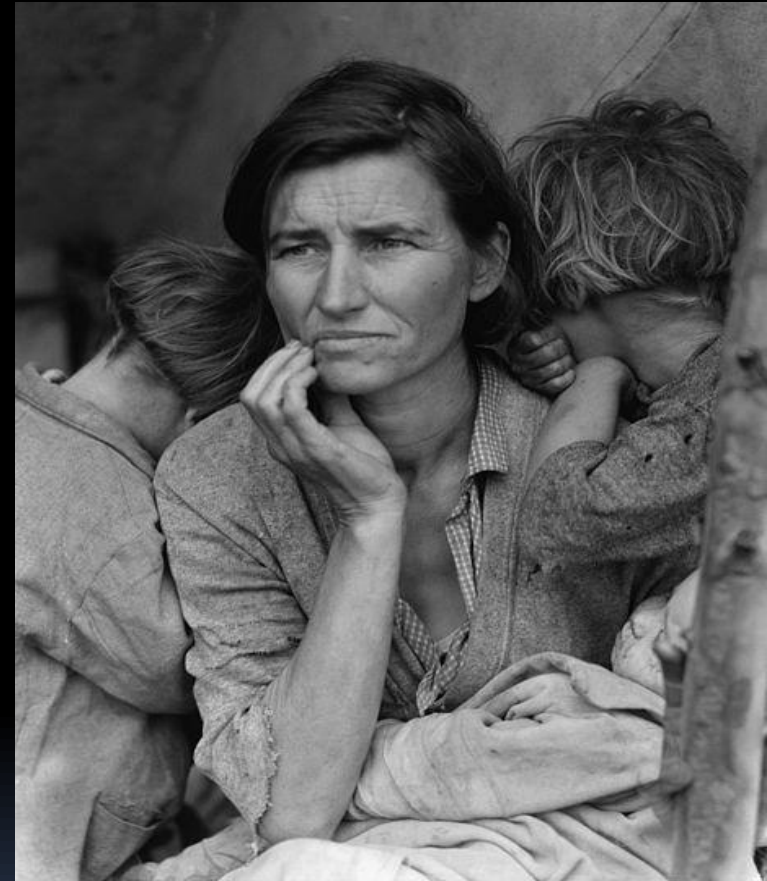
- Contortionist – noun
- A contortionist, from the 1880s, posed for this picture.
- Contortional – adjective
- The contortional position of his body suggests that this man was a circus performer.
- Contort – verb
- Circus performers are often able to contort their bodies in interesting ways.



- *Contortionist – See Chapter 2 (The Circus During the 1930s)

Depression* ♥ time of low economic activity with many people out of work

- Depression – noun
- During a time of great depression in America, Dorothea Lange took pictures of suffering people.
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- Depressed – adjective
- When the economy is depressed, people lose their jobs and are unable to live as they once did.
-
- Depress – verb
- A down-trending economy tends to depress the job market.
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- * **Depression** – See Chapter 1 (Story Preface – *Water for Elephants*)
- Note: Photo by Dorothea Lange, for the Farm Security Administration, taken during the “Great Depression.”

Horrific* ♥ causing horror or shock

- Horrific – adjective
- After a bridge over the Mississippi River collapsed, during the summer of 2007, people gave horrific accounts of the tragedy.
- Horribly – adverb
- The bridge collapsed during rush hour, horribly causing death and property damage as cars unexpectedly plunged into the Mississippi River.



- *Horrific – See Chapter 4 (Rosie the Circus Elephant)

- Note – This photo depicts the collapse of Bridge 9340, located along Interstate 35W, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Insufficient* ♡ not enough

- Insufficient – adjective
- Rashida, a young African girl from Niger, developed a skin disorder caused by insufficient nutrition.
- Insufficiency – noun
- Rashida, like other young children in her country, suffered from nutritional insufficiency.
- Insufficiently - adverb
- Nutritious food is insufficiently available for many young children throughout the world.



- ***Insufficient** – See Chapter 5 (Great Circus Disasters)

- Note: Rashida Mahmadou, a 19-month-old girl from the country of Niger, died from malnutrition-caused problems which also impacted her skin. Photo online from "Doctors without Borders in Niger."

Pachyderm* ♥ large, thick-skinned mammal – such as an elephant

- Pachyderm – noun
- An elephant is a pachyderm.
- Pachydermal – adjective
- Pachydermal mammals – such as an elephant, hippopotamus and rhinoceros – are large and
- have thick skin.

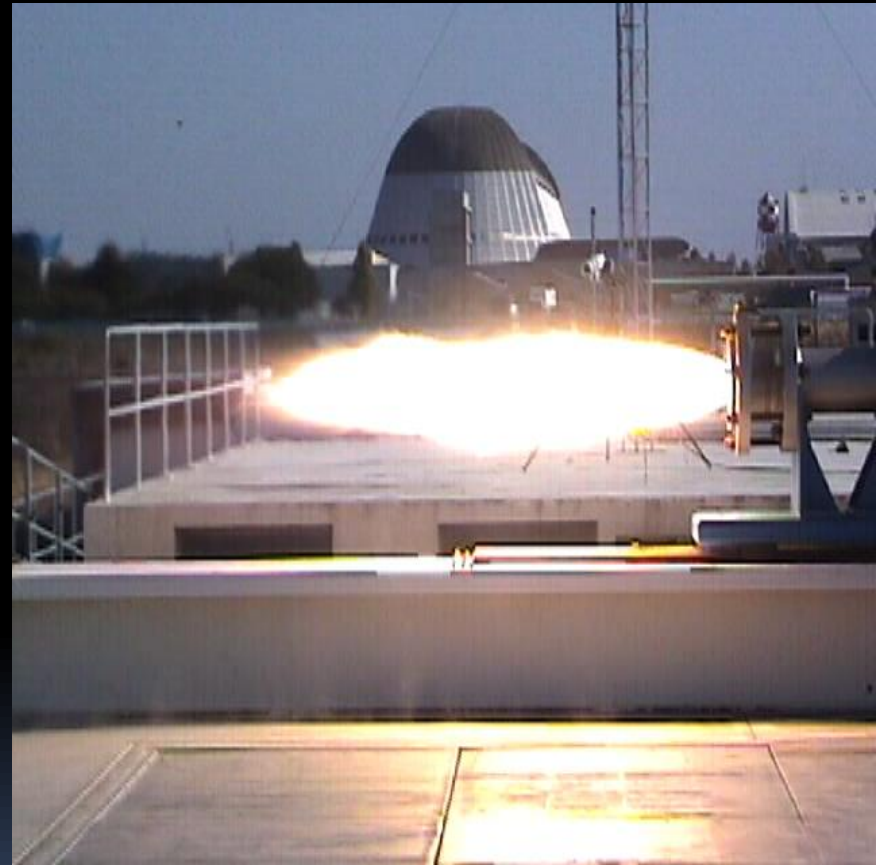


- *Pachyderm – See Chapter 4 (Rosie the Circus Elephant)

- Note: Photo of male and female elephants, in South Africa's Addo Elephant Park, by Charles J. Sharp. Photo License: [CC By 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

Paraffin* ♥ flammable hydrocarbon mixture used for sealing (among other things)

- Paraffin – noun
- NASA has tested paraffin as a potential fuel for rocket launches.
- Paraffined – verb
- Workers paraffined the top of a circus tent to make it waterproof. Unfortunately, that action also made the tent flammable.



*Paraffin – See Chapter 5 (Great Circus Disasters)

Note: Photo taken by remote camera at [Hybrid Rocket Test Facility](#), NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA.

Perilous* ♥ full of risk or danger

- Perilous – adjective
- Sailors aboard the HMS *Terror* were on a perilous journey as they were caught in pack ice near Baffin Island.
- Perilously – adverb
- Captain George Back came perilously close to losing his ship, the *Terror*, during its 118 days drifting on an ice floe.
- Perilousness – noun
- No one underestimated the perilousness of a journey to the ice-filled Arctic region.



*Perilous – See Chapter 2 (The Circus in the 1930s)

Note: Admiral William Smyth created this painting of the HMS *Terror*. The original painting is at the National Maritime Museum in London, England.

Plastered* ♥ coating walls with materials

- Plastered – verb
- Artists plastered the walls of *Kunsthau Tacheles*
- (“Art House Tacheles”), in Berlin, with colorful graffiti.
- Plastering – verb
- Artists, plastering the walls of *Kunsthau Tacheles* with colorful graffiti, have attracted worldwide attention.
- Plasterer – noun
- An art plasterer used many different colors to create graffiti at the *Kunsthau Tacheles* in Berlin.



*Plastered – See Chapter 2 (The Circus During the 1930s)

- NOTE: Photo of [Kunsthau Tacheles](#) by Garagolo. Photo License: [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Predatory* ♥ Living by preying on others

- Predatory – adjective
- Predatory lions attack a herd of buffalo in the country of Botswana.
- Predation – noun
- In the wild, lions have a predation way of life.
- Predators – noun
- Lions are predators of buffalo in Botswana's Okavango Delta.



*Predatory – See Chapter 2 (The Circus During the 1930s)

Note: Image of lions attacking buffalo in Botswana's Okavango Delta, by Beverly Joubert. Copyright, Beverly Joubert, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Vicious* ♥ dangerously aggressive

- Vicious – adjective
- Samo, a trained attack-dog owned by the U.S. Air Force, can be vicious when given the proper commands.
- Viciously – adverb
- Given the proper command, Samo viciously attacks a decoy's arm wrap.



*Vicious – See Chapter 4 (Rosie the Circus Elephant)

Note – US Air Force close-up photo of trained attack-dog Samo, leaping toward a decoy's arm wrap, by Robbin Cresswell. Photo online, courtesy US Air Force.