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# Vocabulary:

## "From War to America"

**1. daunting (DAWNT-ing)** *adjective*; The verb *daunt* (dawnt) means "to discourage or frighten." Remember the Dauntless from the Divergent book series? Its members could not be daunted—they were fearless and determined.

*Daunting* is often used to describe tasks that will be difficult to complete or deal with. Anything that makes you feel intimidated, discouraged, or overwhelmed when you even *think* about doing it—skydiving, going to a new school, or writing an entire research paper in one night—could be described as daunting.

**2. deteriorate (dih-TEER-ee-uh-reyt)** *verb*; To deteriorate is to get worse or fall apart as time passes. If the weather goes from sunny in the morning to rainy in the afternoon, you could say that it has deteriorated. If Dave and Paul used to be good friends but now hardly speak, you could say that their relationship has deteriorated.

**3. embroil (em-BROIL)** *verb*; If you're embroiled in something, you're tangled up in a mess—that is, you're involved in a complicated situation that is hard to get out of. If your two best friends are embroiled in an argument, you might want to help them work it out, or you might want to avoid getting embroiled in the disagreement yourself.

**4. faction (FAK-shuhn)** *noun*; A faction is a group within a larger group with different ideas and opinions than those of the rest of the group.

**5. humanitarian (hyoo-man-ih-TAIR-ee-uhn)** *noun or adjective*; Humanitarians are people devoted to improving the lives of others. They work to end human suffering by donating money or offering a service to help solve problems like poverty, disease, and hunger. *Humanitarian* can also be used as an adjective to mean "related to humanitarians," as in "humanitarian aid" or "humanitarian efforts."

When people refer to a "humanitarian crisis," they mean something slightly different. A humanitarian crisis is an event or a situation that threatens the health or safety of a large group of people.

**6. persecute (PUR-si-kyoot)** *verb*; To persecute someone is to treat them cruelly and unfairly, especially because of their ideas, race, religion, or political beliefs.

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**Directions:** In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

# Vocabulary Practice

## "From War to America"

**Directions:** Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. **daunting**

- Ⓐ scary                      Ⓑ comforting

2. **deteriorate**

- Ⓐ decline                      Ⓑ improve

3. **persecute**

- Ⓐ protect                      Ⓑ mistreat

4. **embroil**

- Ⓐ exclude                      Ⓑ involve

**Directions:** For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

5. If a government is **persecuting** a group of people, the government is treating these people nicely.

- Ⓐ true                      Ⓑ false

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If the swing set in your backyard is **deteriorating**, it is safe to use.

- Ⓐ true                      Ⓑ false

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

<b>embroil</b> <b>faction</b> <b>daunting</b> <b>humanitarian</b>
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7. Speaking in front of a large group of people can be a frightening experience.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Casey's aunt works for an organization that makes other people's lives better—it helps people around the world get access to clean drinking water.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. The committee will likely split into smaller groups if its members cannot find a way to settle their differences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_