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# Vocabulary:

## "Island of Sorrow"

**1. careen (kuh-REEN)** *verb*; To careen is to move quickly in an out-of-control way, leaning or tipping dangerously from side to side. A go-kart might careen around a turn on a racetrack, skidding wildly on two wheels.

**2. 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.

The adjective *daunting* is used to describe an activity or task that seems difficult or frightening to do. 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.

**3. deluge (DEL-yooj)** *noun or verb*; A deluge is an overwhelming number or amount of something. *Deluge* is often used to refer to an enormous amount of water, such as a drenching rain. For example, a deluge might flood a soccer field. But *deluge* can be used to describe a very large number or amount of anything. If your phone is turned off for a week, you might find a deluge of text messages when you turn it back on.

As a verb, *deluge* means "to flood with water" or "to overwhelm." You could say that the soccer field was deluged with rain or that you were deluged with text messages.

**4. infrastructure (IN-fruh-struhk-cher)** *noun*; An infrastructure is the foundation or basic framework of something. A building's infrastructure is what keeps it standing—the walls, the foundation beneath the floors, and all the beams overhead. The infrastructure of a country is the collection of equipment and structures that allow it to function—the roads, the bridges, the public water system, and the power lines, for example.

**5. intermittent (in-ter-MIT-nt)** *adjective*; Something that is intermittent starts, stops, and starts again—it doesn't occur in a constant or steady way. If today's weather forecast calls for intermittent rain, rain showers will come and go throughout the day.

**6. logistics (luh-JIS-tiks)** *noun*; Note: This word is always plural and often preceded by *the*. The logistics of something is the planning, coordinating, and execution of all the little details that make an event, project, or undertaking happen successfully.

For example, the logistics of providing pizza for the sixth-grade dance might include figuring out how many pies you will need, where you will order the pizza from, how and when the pizza will be transported to the school, and who will provide plates and napkins.

**7. meteorologist (mee-tee-uh-ROL-uh-jist)** *noun*; Meteorology (mee-tee-uh-ROL-uh-jee) is the branch of science that deals with the Earth's atmosphere, weather, and weather forecasting. A meteorologist is an expert of meteorology.

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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 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

## "Island of Sorrow"

**Directions:** Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question.

1. Which of the following books would you expect a meteorologist to write?  
☐ Ⓐ *Tornadoes: Nature's Ultimate Windstorms*  
☐ Ⓑ *The Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking*
2. Which of the following might be part of a mayor's plan to repair a city's infrastructure?  
☐ Ⓐ repaving a highway that is full of potholes  
☐ Ⓑ building a new amusement park
3. Which of the following might be part of the logistics of a field trip to the zoo?  
☐ Ⓐ buying a T-shirt from the zoo's souvenir shop  
☐ Ⓑ finding out the zoo's hours of operation and reserving a bus and a bus driver
4. Which radio station's signal is intermittent?  
☐ Ⓐ G105, whose signal is strong, allowing listeners to hear every song loud and clear  
☐ Ⓑ MIX101.5, whose signal cuts in and out, allowing listeners to hear only parts of each song

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

logistics    careen    daunting    deluge
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5. Speaking in front of a large group of people can be a frightening experience.

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6. During the final episode of *America's Got Talent*, the TV network was overwhelmed with phone calls from viewers voting for their favorite acts.

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7. Our cat, Mr. Pickles, was running wildy around the house, playing with a ball of aluminum foil.

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