

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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the words and  
definitions read  
aloud.

# Vocabulary

## "Trapped in a Cave"

1. **comrade** (KAHM-rad) *noun*; A comrade is a close friend you spend a lot of time with because, for example, you work together, belong to the same organization, or serve in the military together. *Comrade* is especially used to describe someone you've gone through a dangerous situation with.
2. **confound** (kuhn-FOWNd) *verb*; As it is used in the article, *confound* means "to throw a person into confusion." Visiting a new place might confound you until you learn your way around.
3. **current** (KUR-uhnt) *noun*; As it is used in the article, *current* means "a body of air or water moving continuously in a certain direction, especially through a surrounding body of water or air in which there is less movement." River currents, for example, can be strong enough to knock you off your feet, even if the river's surface appears calm.
4. **junction** (JUHNGK-shuhn) *noun*; A junction is the point where two or more things meet. Traffic lights are located at the junction of two roads.
5. **meditate** (MEHD-ih-teyt) *verb*; To meditate is to calm and focus the mind for a period of time. Some people meditate by sitting silently, closing their eyes, and focusing on their breath. People often meditate to reduce stress or for spiritual reasons.
6. **recede** (rih-SEED) *verb*; To recede is to move back or away, or to become smaller or weaker. If the water recedes from the shore, the water moves away, leaving more land exposed. If a car is receding into the distance, it is moving away from you, becoming harder and harder to see.

7. **stalactite** (stuh-LAK-tahyt) *noun*; A stalactite is an icicle-shaped chunk of rock that hangs down from the ceiling of a cave. It is formed by water and minerals slowly dripping down through the cave ceiling.
8. **torrential** (taw-REN-shuhl) *adjective*; A torrent is a large amount of liquid flowing rapidly and violently. A torrent of lava might flow down the side of a volcano. Torrents of rain can make it difficult to see through a windshield.

If something is torrential, it has the character of a torrent. Torrential rains might cause flooding.

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## Vocabulary Practice

### "Trapped in a Cave"

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**Directions:** Choose the best answer to each question.

1. **What might you see after a storm recedes?**
    - a. a rainbow
    - b. lightning
  2. **Who would more likely consider themselves comrades?**
    - a. a salesperson and a customer
    - b. firefighters who work together on a team
  3. **Where might you see a stalactite?**
    - a. hanging down from the ceiling of a cave
    - b. rising up from the floor of a cave
  4. **Why might someone meditate?**
    - a. to become physically fit
    - b. to relax and quiet their mind
- 

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

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5. <b>torrential</b> | 7. <b>comrade</b>  |
| A. overflowing       | A. companion       |
| B. empty             | B. enemy           |
| 6. <b>confounded</b> | 8. <b>junction</b> |
| A. puzzled           | A. intersection    |
| B. certain           | B. gap             |