

Lesson 9

Groups and Meetings

All the words in this lesson may refer to groups and meetings.

- affiliate** V. to associate as a member; to connect or associate oneself (When you begin this job, you must *affiliate* yourself with the union.)
- agenda** N. a list of items to address during a meeting (Two important items on the *agenda* remained unsettled when the meeting ended.)
- canvass** V. to conduct a public opinion poll; to ask for support (Our animal rights group will *canvass* the neighborhood to get signatures on our petition.)
- cohort** N. a group united by a common activity (Phil and his *cohort* of neighborhood activists protested closing the park.)
- collective** N. a group or cooperative organization (A *collective* presumes all members are equal and should share in making decisions.)
- conclave** N. a meeting conducted in private (The tribal elders huddled in a *conclave* to decide the outsider's fate.)
- consensus** N. an agreement of opinion or belief (It was the *consensus* of the senior class to go to New York City for the class trip.)
- convene** V. to assemble as an official group or meeting (The President requested that a subcommittee *convene* to study the matter further.)
- coterie** N. a small, often exclusive, circle of people unified by common interests (Gina's *coterie* of bridge players meets every Thursday night.)
- dais** N. a platform in a meeting room for speakers or guests (Chairs for the visiting dignitaries are arranged in a semicircle on the *dais*.)
- delegation** N. one or more persons appointed to represent others (A *delegation* of farmers reported to Congress about their troubles.)
- faction** N. a dissenting group of people within a larger group (One *faction* of the prom committee did not want to change the location of the dance.)
- laity** N. the people of a religious faith as distinguished from its clergy (A church depends on the cooperation of the *laity* and the clergy.)
- lectern** N. a supporting stand for books or notes for a speaker (Noisily rattling the microphone on the *lectern*, the professor stalled for time.)
- liaison** N. a means of communication between groups (Edna served as the *liaison* between the protesters and the legislative committee.)
- officiate** V. to perform official duties, as in a ceremony; to lead a group (A justice of the peace was asked to *officiate* at the wedding.)
- quorum** N. the minimum number of persons needed to officially conduct a group's business (We did not have a *quorum*, so the meeting was adjourned.)
- roster** N. a list of names (I scanned the team *roster* and found that my name had been omitted.)
- tribute** N. an acknowledgment of respect (The speech was a glowing *tribute* to the retiring employee.)
- valedictory** N. a farewell speech or address (The eloquent *valedictory* brought wild applause from the graduating seniors.)