

“Uncle Marcos” by Isabel Allende  
**Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists**

*Study these words from “Uncle Marcos.” Then, complete the activities.*

### Word List A

**acquainted** [uh KWAYN tid] *v.* aware of; familiar with

He would have played better if he had been acquainted with the rules.

**attraction** [uh TRAK shuhn] *n.* something that draws attention

The lions’ den at feeding time is a major attraction at the zoo.

**authorities** [uh THAWR uh tees] *n.* people with power or knowledge

Authorities on handwriting and fingerprints testified during the trial.

**confirmed** [kuhn FERMD] *v.* proved true or valid

The scientist found that the experiment’s results confirmed her theory.

**contraption** [kuhn TRAP shun] *n.* gadget; thrown-together device

The homemade ramp was a shaky contraption used by the skaters.

**improvisations** [im prah vi ZAY shuhnz] *n.* things done or made up on the spot

When the actor forgot his lines, his improvisations won lots of laughs.

**strictly** [STRIKT lee] *adv.* exactly and correctly; only

These bowls are strictly for decoration.

**technical** [TEK nuh kuh] *adj.* used in a specific profession or craft

I lack the technical know-how to work on an engineering project.

### Word List B

**accessible** [ak SES uh buhl] *adj.* reachable; able to be obtained

The statistical information was easily accessible on the Internet.

**adventurous** [ad VEN chur uhs] *adj.* daring

The adventurous explorers used only a compass to find their way.

**aerial** [AYR ee uhl] *adj.* of, by, or in the air

The pilot checked her aerial maps.

**commercial** [kuh MER shul] *adj.* done mainly for profit

Though it began as a hobby, her gardening was a commercial success.

**farthest** [FAHR thist] *adj.* most distant

The farthest place from home that I have visited is Acapulco, Mexico.

**impassive** [im PAS iv] *adj.* showing no emotion

Despite his disappointment, his face remained impassive.

**speculate** [SPEK yuh layt] *v.* think about; ponder

We tried to speculate on the reasons for the unusual heat wave.

**withstand** [with STAND] *v.* endure; put up with

I do not think I can withstand any more of my brother’s teasing.

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**Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises**

**Exercise A** *Fill in each blank in the paragraph below with an appropriate word from Word List A. Use each word only once.*

I have always felt an [1] \_\_\_\_\_ to people who know how to create things. My interest in becoming an inventor was [2] \_\_\_\_\_ when I began entering science fairs in high school. The first [3] \_\_\_\_\_ I built was just a pile of nuts and bolts, but my [4] \_\_\_\_\_ skills improved when I started taking special classes after school. A good way to learn what it is like to be an inventor is to become [5] \_\_\_\_\_ with actual inventors and talk to them about their work. Also, be prepared to make [6] \_\_\_\_\_ when things do not work out [7] \_\_\_\_\_ as planned. If you cannot solve a problem alone, find knowledgeable [8] \_\_\_\_\_ to help you. That is what being inventive is all about!

**Exercise B** *Write two sentences of your own using each word on Word List B. You may use a different form of the vocabulary word in your second sentence.*

**Example:** aerial

- A. *The pilot performed such aerial stunts as flying his plane upside down.*
- B. *The circus aerialist swung overhead on his trapeze.*

1. **accessible** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
2. **adventurous** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. **commercial** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
4. **farthest** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. **impassive** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
6. **speculate** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_
7. **withstand** A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_