

LESSON 9

Meet Moboulou (informational) by The Jane Goodall Institute

Chimpanzees like Moboulou demonstrate many human-like behaviors. Like us, rules govern chimpanzee societies, and there are standards that all individuals must respect and **adhere** to in order to **maintain** harmony and stability in the community. The first rule is that there is a single **alpha** male in each community who must be obeyed. Moboulou represents this social figure in his community and he plays the part very well. Moboulou is not overly violent or **authoritarian**. Instead, he uses his strong character and **diplomacy** to **mitigate** and resolve conflicts. He is an ideal leader.

Chimpanzees can be very violent; however, most of the time they tend to be generous and kind toward one another. This allows them to recruit and maintain important friends who can help them in times of need. Moboulou's ability to attract and retain allies is superior to other chimpanzees. He could never have achieved his **status** without his wisdom and **charisma**. The manner with which he interacts with his community members is amazing.

When Moboulou has a problem that he cannot solve, he calls on his carefully cultivated group of friends. How did Moboulou recruit this network of allies? Essentially, he did what many leaders do: He demonstrated generosity to and confidence in his group members; he hugged and embraced them and supported them through difficult times; and he even joked and played with them.

It is particularly interesting to observe Moboulou at lunch. The chimpanzees take a portion of fruit and move away from one another, sitting on the ground with food piled safely between their legs. As the head of the group, Moboulou selects the best fruit and takes a large share. After a few minutes, most of the chimpanzees have finished eating their portion, but Moboulou continues feasting while he guards three large delicious lemons between his legs.

Lemons are the favorite fruit of N'Golo, a member of Moboulou's community. N'Golo approaches Moboulou and sits facing the lemons. In a defensive maneuver, Moboulou takes his hand and sweeps the lemons closer to his body. N'Golo is one of Moboulou's closest male allies and he begs for a lemon with his palm facing upward. Moboulou turns away from N'Golo and starts to eat one of the lemons, **prompting** N'Golo to make a noise like a crying child, which sounds like "uh, uh, uh." After a few minutes, Moboulou caves in and decides to share. He takes the pulp of the lemon from his mouth and leaves it on his lower lip in full view of N'Golo. N'Golo leans in with his lips and gently takes part of the pulp from Moboulou. While it is not much, there is value in this generous gesture and Moboulou knows it. Only by **nurturing** his important friendships will Moboulou maintain his powerful position.

• • • Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words

Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don't know.

adhere	authoritarian	diplomacy	mitigate	prompt
alpha	charisma	maintain	nurture	status

Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. **adhere** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. **alpha** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

3. **authoritarian** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

4. **charisma** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

5. **diplomacy** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

6. **maintain** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

7. **mitigate** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

8. **nurture** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

9. **prompt** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

10. **status** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____

Your Definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

• • Exercise 3: Using Synonyms

Each italic word in the sentences below is a synonym of one of the Master Words in the list. On the line following the sentence, write the Master Word that best replaces the synonym. You will need to change to form of some Master Words to fit the context.

adhere prompt maintain mitigate nurture

1. It is a strange sight . . . to see with what . . . skill the whaleman will *keep* an erect posture in his boat, even when pitched about by the most riotously perverse and cross-running seas. (*Moby Dick*, Herman Melville) _____
2. Nothing suggested the glory of a soldier's death nor *softened* the loathsomeness of the incident. ("One Officer, One Man," Ambrose Bierce) _____
3. First as a government clerk, then as a Frenchman and finally as a man who believed in order he would *be true* to whatever government was established, having an unbounded reverence for authority.... ("Sundays of a Bourgeois," Guy de Maupassant) _____
4. . . . between you and Miss Manette there is an affection so unusual, so touching, so belonging to the circumstances in which it has been *fostered*, that it can have few parallels, even in the tenderness between a father and child. (*A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens) _____
5. The careless good humor that had *induced* him to accept the trust of the dead man had given place to a fixed habit of melancholy. ("The Famous Gilson Bequest," Ambrose Bierce) _____

• • Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

1. Marisa has ...?...; she makes friends with just about everyone she meets. _____
2. Li is good at using ...?... when conflicts erupt among her five brothers. _____
3. Marco gained his high ...?... in the chess club by consistently winning. _____
4. Our neighbors were ...?...(d, ed) to put up a fence to block the view of the ugly building. _____
5. If ...?... means "first," what is the word for "last"? _____
6. Our teachers had us sign a form saying we would ...?... to a set of rules. _____
7. The hall monitors guard the hallways with ...?... strictness. _____
8. It is hard to ...?... a straight face in class when Eddie starts telling jokes. _____
9. Nothing could ...?... the sting of our humiliating loss to our arch rivals. _____
10. It is so cute. Our female dog has been ...?...(ing) the orphan kitten. _____

Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or connotations. Based on shades of meaning, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary.

charisma	mitigate	nurture	status
mystique	lighten	nourish	rank

1. I went to the greenhouse to find the best food to use to ...?... my tomato plants. _____
2. While hiking, Adrian asked Rosa if he could help ...?... the load of her backpack. _____
3. Raul reads aloud to his children every night to ...?... the love of literature. _____
4. There are ways to ...?... the effect of poison ivy once you have it. _____
5. This time, Oliver's ...?... didn't get him out of trouble. _____
6. The members of the team couldn't wait to learn their ...?... in the league. _____
7. Meanwhile, the players began to enjoy their newfound ...?... as members of a winning team. _____
8. The company purposeiy generates a ...?... about its products by keeping them secret right up to their launch. _____

Exercise 6: Analogies

Determine the relationship between the first pair of words below. Then write the Master Word on the blank that would create a similar relationship with the second pair of words. The types of analogies used are synonyms, antonyms, and actor/action. (See page 158 for a guide to analogy types.)

1. woe : good fortune :: last : _____
2. moody : unhappy :: attraction : _____
3. opponent : friend :: abandon : _____
4. panic : terror :: harsh : _____
5. mouth : frown :: parent : _____

Write About It: Rain Forest Preservation

Write a brief argumentative essay on the importance of preserving the rain forests—the natural habitat of chimpanzees. Use at least three Master Words or words related to the Master Words in your essay. Refer to your science book or other sources, in print or online, for accurate information.