

# Chapter 8

## VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

**Directions:** Complete the following sentences using the vocabulary words listed below. Words may be used more than once.

absolute poverty  
bourgeoisie  
caste system  
class consciousness  
false consciousness  
feminization of poverty  
horizontal mobility  
income

intergenerational mobility  
open-class system  
power  
prestige  
proletariat  
relative poverty  
social class  
social classes

social mobility  
social stratification  
underclass  
vertical mobility  
wealth  
working poor

The creation of layers (strata) of people who possess unequal shares of scarce resources is (1)\_\_\_\_\_. Each of the layers is a (2)\_\_\_\_\_—a segment of a population whose members hold similar amounts of scarce resources and share values, norms, and an identifiable lifestyle. Karl Marx and Max Weber made the most significant early contributions to the study of (3)\_\_\_\_\_.

Marx identified several social classes in nineteenth-century industrial society. He thought that those who owned the means of production—the (4)\_\_\_\_\_—would be the rulers. Those who worked for wages—the (5)\_\_\_\_\_—would be the ruled. For Karl Marx, the economy determines the nature of society.

How unequally are economic resources distributed in the United States? (6)\_\_\_\_\_ is the amount of money received within a given time period by an individual or group. (7)\_\_\_\_\_ refers to all the economic resources possessed by an individual or group. In brief, your (8)\_\_\_\_\_ is your paycheck, and your (9)\_\_\_\_\_ is what you own. In 2004, over 37 million Americans were living in (10)\_\_\_\_\_ and there were about 2.5 million millionaires and around 341 billionaires living in the United States.

According to Marx, those who own and control capital have the (11)\_\_\_\_\_ in a society. Weber argued that while having money certainly helps, economic success and power do not necessarily overlap.

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People with similar levels of (12)\_\_\_\_\_ (recognition, respect, and admiration) share identifiable lifestyles. In fact, some sociologists view (13)\_\_\_\_\_ as subcultures because they participate in distinctive ways of life. For Marx, all of history has been a class struggle between the powerful and the powerless, the exploiters and the exploited. Marx used the term (14)\_\_\_\_\_ to refer to working class acceptance of capitalist ideas.

Americans have always been aware of inequality, but they have never developed a sense of (15)\_\_\_\_\_. It was not until the 1920s that sociologists in the United States began systematically to identify (16)\_\_\_\_\_. Changeable and full of exceptions, any attempt to identify the social class structure of American society is hazardous; however, five major classes have been identified.

The upper class includes only 1 percent of the population. About 40 to 50 percent of Americans fit the description of middle class. The working class, comprising almost one-third of the population, is a large segment of society. The (17)\_\_\_\_\_ consists of people employed in low-skill jobs with the lowest pay. Lacking steady employment, the (18)\_\_\_\_\_ do not earn enough to rise above the poverty line. The (19)\_\_\_\_\_ is composed of people who are usually unemployed and who come from families with a history of unemployment for generations. There are very few paths out of the (20)\_\_\_\_\_ and the (21)\_\_\_\_\_.

(22)\_\_\_\_\_ is the absence of enough money to secure life's necessities. It is possible, however, to have the things required to remain alive and still be poor. We measure (23)\_\_\_\_\_ by comparing the economic conditions of those at the bottom of a society with the economic conditions of other members of that society. Between 1960 and today, women and children make up a larger proportion of the poor. Sociologists refer to this trend as the (24)\_\_\_\_\_.

(25)\_\_\_\_\_ is the movement of people between social classes. It can be horizontal or vertical. Because (26)\_\_\_\_\_ involves no real change in occupational status or social class, sociologists are not generally interested in investigating it. With (27)\_\_\_\_\_, occupational status or social class moves upward or downward. If a plumber's daughter becomes a physician, upward (28)\_\_\_\_\_ has occurred. The extent of vertical mobility varies from society to society. In a (29)\_\_\_\_\_, there is no social mobility. Because it imposes some limitations on upward mobility, U.S. society cannot be considered a truly (30)\_\_\_\_\_.



