



*Hear now. And always*

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## Introduction and Menus

To begin in English, Press 1

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We at Cochlear want to maximize your sound processor listening experience. We look forward to hearing your telephone success stories after using this program.

To get started please chose from the following three options:

For today's word list, Press 1

For today's short passage, Press 2

For today's long passage, Press 3

To repeat these options, Press 4

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## Week 2 – Gardening

Welcome to today's word list.

### Word List

**Voice: Female**

1. Lavender
2. Bamboo
3. Thyme
4. Poinsettia
5. Clover

That completes today's word list. Call back tomorrow and listen to a new word list.

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Welcome to today's short passage.

### **Short Passage**

**Voice: Male**

A lot of gardening is repetitive motion and can be very stressful on the joints, especially the wrists and back. Thankfully garden tool companies have been coming out with more and better tools that work with the body, taking some of the bending and squeezing out of garden work. Look around for ratchet pruners, bent rakes, cushioned handles and trowels that don't require you to bend your wrist.

That completes today's short passage. Call back tomorrow and listen to a new short passage.

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Welcome to today's long passage.

### **Long Passage**

**Voice: Female, Accent**

Usually, when we think of "carnivorous," animals come to mind. Yet there are some wonderfully fascinating plants that eat animals! It seems a contradiction, but this meat-eating habit of some plants is an interesting and normal adaptation of nature.

Carnivorous plants have evolved in places where the soil is poor and low in nutrients. Here, animals can provide the missing ingredients needed for survival. The carnivorous plants' fascinating methods of luring, trapping and digesting animals provide an adequate supply of necessary nutrients.

Carnivorous plants do not exist solely by eating insects. Like all green plants, they require sunlight for photosynthesis. As a matter of fact, they prefer the bright, open, sunny areas of Sphagnum bogs. It is in such places that an abundant and constant supply of water washes minerals from the area, leaving it nutrient-poor and often acidic. Most plants cannot grow well under these conditions. However, the carnivorous habit gives these plants a competitive advantage over other plants in the area.



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When these plants were first discovered, the commonly observed prey was insects, hence the name "insectivorous plants." Many varieties have since been found including some which digest frogs, lizards, worms and other animals. Because of this, the term "carnivorous" meaning "meat-eater" is more general and is commonly used with these plants.

The part of the plant that attracts and captures prey, the trap, is actually a modified leaf. They come in many varieties and shapes and are generally divided into three groups: active, semi-active, and passive traps. Active traps, like the Venus Flytrap, show rapid movement when capturing prey. Semi-active traps, like the sundew, close very slowly over a period of hours. Sticky drops of "dew" keep their prey from escaping in the meantime. The passive traps, like those found in pitcher plants, are generally tube-shaped snares that lure prey into an inescapable pit.

After entrapment, the prey is digested and its nutrients are absorbed by the trap. From a chemical standpoint the digestive process is very similar to digestion in animals. Most carnivorous plants actually release digestive enzymes. Some carnivorous plants rely on microorganisms such as bacteria to break down the prey into more easily absorbed substances.

It is interesting to note that carnivorous plants attract insects for two distinct purposes: pollination and nutrition. In both cases scents may be used, as well as ultraviolet pattern techniques that "bull's eye" key flower or trap parts. This is not surprising since flowers and traps are both modified leaves.

Many people say that they have tried to grow Venus Flytraps and have struggled to keep the plant alive. The reason for this is often because tap water was used. If a few simple, but strict requirements are met, it can be quite easy to grow any carnivorous plant. First of all, be sure to use rainwater or distilled water. Normal tap water is too hard and contains minerals that burn out the plants roots in a matter of a month or so. Second, use mineral-free soil, not regular potting soil, which again contains root burning minerals or fertilizers. An excellent carnivorous plant soil mixes equal parts of sand and Sphagnum peat moss. Third, keep the soil wet at all times by standing the pots in a tray constantly filled with rain water. Fourth, do not over feed fertilize, this will burn out the plant as surely as an overdose of fertilizer would for a normal plant.

That completes today's long passage. Call back tomorrow and listen to a new long passage.

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