





# Introduction + Vocabulary Words

## BOOK ONE

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# Introduction

The first slide provides the vocabulary word. Use this to begin thinking about the definition.

# Introduction

The first click will reveal a context menu which the word might be used in.

Clicking on the word will reveal the definition of the word, and studying its context.

# Introduction

A second click provides the definition of the word.



# Lesson One

# Lesson One

## Fatalistic

The **fatalistic** historian claims that we are unable to control the outcomes of future events

believing that all events in life are pre-ordained and determine



# Lesson One

## elated

The politicians were **elated** after learning the positive election results.

Which word is **not** a synonym for *elated*?  
A. exultantly proud  
B. overjoyed  
C. depressed  
D. with high spirits

# Lesson One

pensive

Instead of taking immediate action to correct the problem, Mary became **pensive** and vague.

adj. dreamily thoughtful

*reflexive; meditative*

*frivolous*

# Lesson One

## Licentious

### Licentious

politicians lower a country's moral reputation in the world.

*adj.* morally unrestrained

*syn.* immoral; lewd

*ant.* chaste; pure

# Lesson One

## lackadaisical

Do not become **lackadaisical** when collecting money from a beehive.

*adj.* uninterested; listless  
*adj.* spiritless; apathetic; languid  
*adj.* enthusiastic, etc.

# Lesson One

## alienate

A bad attitude **alienates** your teachers.

turn away feelings of affection

*estranged; set against*

*not clear; unkind*

# Lesson One

paucity

John realized that the **paucity** of money would prevent him from buying an expensive car.

*n.* scarcity, lack  
*syn:* insufficiency  
*ant:* abundance

# Lesson One

## obtrude

When a matador is fighting a bull, enthusiastic fans must remember not to **obtrude** themselves into the ring.

to force oneself into a situation

*syn: impose, intrude*

*ant: extricate*

# Lesson One

## numismatist

Every adventurous **numismatist** loves to  
discover rare coins.

*n.* a coin collector



# Lesson One

epigram

**Epigrams**

yield concise and clever truths.

saying, expressing, saying

on observation

*horum; bonum*



# Lesson Two

# Lesson Two

## caricature

The best **caricature** captures the essence of a person's physical and psychological features.

Exaggerated portrayal of one  
or more features.  
Syn.: *mockery*, *parody*

# Lesson Two

antiquated

Leaders sometimes change **antiquated** rules to reflect the new realities in society.

is no longer used or useful; v  
solely out-of-date arch  
and mode

# Lesson Two

## Opiate

Doctors administer **opiates** carefully to patients so they will not become addicted.

Opiate is used to cause sleep or  
relief from pain  
and stimulation.

# Lesson Two

## gorge

Little Johnny **gorged** himself on the candy he collected into a giant sack from neighbors last Halloween.

to eat or swallow greedily

# Lesson Two

demented

Aaron welcomed everyone except the severely **demented** autograph-seekers.

*adj.* mentally ill; insane

*syn.* deranged, insane

*ant.* sane

# Lesson Two

## Hone

The experienced barber knew how to hone an old-fashioned straight razor and give close shaves.

How to sharpen  
Content: dur



# Lesson Two

dally

Do not **dally** or you'll miss the bus again.

to waste time; to dawdle

*syn. dawdle: loiter*

*ant: hasten; hurry*

# Lesson Two

## amalgamate

The two companies **amalgamated** and formed an international corporation.

*to combine  
unite; blend; merge; conso-  
lidate; splinter; disunite*

# Lesson Two

felonious

The judge convicted him of **felonious** assault.

ing to be constituting a ma  
sy *criminal*

# Lesson Two

## beleaguer

The home team **beleaguered** and then routed the winless visiting squad.

*v. to besiege by encircling as with an army*

*to harass*

*syn. surround, annoy*

*and evade*



# Lesson Three

# Lesson Three

## egalitarian

The **egalitarian** organization welcomed anyone, regardless of race or income.

Advocating equal rights for all  
*and elitist*

# Lesson Three

## animate

The promise of a free item will **animate** almost any shopper.

*v.* to give life or motion to  
*enliven; encourage; excite*  
*n.* a question

# Lesson Three

## Chauvinist

The **chauvinist** felt that men's salaries were higher simply because men were smarter than women.

...having a fanatical devotion to the leader of religion, who comes from other countries, that is, for other...



# Lesson Three

## belated

Dan called and provided only a **belated** thank-you to his friend.

*adj. delayed*  
*syn: tardy; late*  
*ant: timely*

# Lesson Three

## ostentatious

Wearing a big diamond necklace to a supermarket is usually considered **ostentatious**

and is marked by a conspicuous, showy, or pretentious display  
*synonymous*  
and ostentatious, showy

# Lesson Three

## Edifice

Time passes, and even the largest **edifice** may crumble.

In a large, elaborate structure; an imposing building  
*syn. fortresses*  
*and above*

# Lesson Three

## knead

Sally **kneaded** the clay to achieve a smooth surface on the durable pottery items she was making.

...ough of clay into a uniform  
... squeeze; roll p...

# Lesson Three

## Berserk

The **berserk** dog ran in circles before chasing the cement truck.

state of violent or destructive

*syn: frenzied*

*placid: calm, placid*

# Lesson Three

## ambidextrous

### Ambidextrous

tennis players are rare, and they aim their ground strokes at opponents from weird angles.

usually skillful with either hand

# Lesson Three

## delude

Tom Sawyer **deluded** his gullible friends into  
white-washing a fence for him.

v. to mislead; to fool

*syn: deceive*

*ant: enlighten*



# Lesson Four



# Lesson Four

## denizen

Fierce and beautiful, the blue shark reigns as a powerful **denizen** of the deep.

*denizen*: an occupant; inhabitant

*denizen*: resident

*denizen*: emigrant; alien

# Lesson Four

blight

Bigoted people are a **blight** on a civilized society.

It is anything that destroys, prevents growth or  
causes devaluation.  
Origin: *arabica*; disease  
of the orange.

# Lesson Four

## gratify

Evita **gratified** her gym teacher by climbing the rope up to the ceiling without using her legs.

to please  
syn: satisfy; indulge  
displease; disappoint

# Lesson Four

## elude

Construction workers posted a warning sign about the fresh cement, but it **eluded** the clueless pedestrian who stepped right into the new sidewalk and ruined it.

to escape notice; to get away

*syn: avoid; evade; miss*

*ant: attract*

# Lesson Four

## gambit

In chess, a **gambit** occurs when a player tries to gain a strategic advantage over an opponent by sacrificing a pawn.

... or action used to gain an  
... strategy; ploy, maneuver  
... an *Alundra*

# Lesson Four

obsequy

He was the chief mourner at his friend's

**obsequy**.

funeral rite or ceremony

# Lesson Four

## entice

Big splashy ads **entice** gullible readers into making unwise purchases.

to tempt or attract by offering reward or pleasure

syn: tempt; lure

ant: discourage

# Lesson Four

## fallow

The farmer plows a **fallow** field but leaves it unplanted and unseeded during the growing season.

**fallow** *adj.* inactive; unproductive

*syn:* idle; barren

*ant:* fertile; productive



# Lesson Four

## fealty

An uncritical **fealty** to a dictator has led many citizens into tragic decisions.

obligated loyalty or faithfulness; devotion; fidelity; allegiance; disloyalty; treachery

# Lesson Four

## Laggard

**Laggards** always dally.

person, especially one who  
*syn: swagger, dawdler,*  
*and leader.*



# Lesson Five

# Lesson Five

## advocate

Anna dedicated **advocate** for people in need,  
Elizabeth helped to build affordable housing for  
them.

command; to speak in favor of;  
*promote; encourage*  
*oppose, combat*

# Lesson Five

## Ogre

Children panicked when they saw the ugly ogre  
crouched under the bridge.

a large monster; a fright

# Lesson Five

bandy

Some people **bandy** important ideas around instead of treating them with the seriousness they deserve.

bandy: to discuss; to discuss; to discuss

# Lesson Five

efface

The researchers wanted to **efface** the scourge of cancer.

to obliterate, to wipe out

*syn: erase*

*ant: enshrine*

# Lesson Five

## entity

The search for **entities** on other planets continues to capture the imaginations of scientists and the general public.

Having existence, either physical or mystical.



# Lesson Five

## Charisma

The crook hoped his **charisma** would persuade the detective to overlook his jewelry heist and put him back on the street.

Charisma is a special appeal or attraction, made up of a person's *synonyms* charisma

# Lesson Five

mesmerize

Edwin **mesmerized** the restless crowd with his  
evil eye.

v. to hypnotize

*captivate; enthrall*

*spellbound*

# Lesson Five

## dastardly

The worst you can say about him is that he was  
lax *hardly* in love and **dastardly** in war.

*cowardly and treacherous*

*dishonorable; shameful*

*unrighteous*

# Lesson Five

gist

Maurice often found it difficult to grasp the **gist** of complicated essays.

*n.* the main point  
*n.* *in: n.* a; essence



# Lesson Six

# Lesson Six

declaim

Stop **declaiming** and just talk to us like regular people.

to speak in a dramatic, impassioned, blustering manner  
to speak in a *trumpeting* or *whispering* manner

# Lesson Six

## Begrudge

Lacking any athletic skills, Harry **begrudged** his friend's superstar status on the varsity basketball team.

resent another's success; to  
sigh; resent  
and forgive

# Lesson Six

## Imbue

The painter **imbued** the landscape with shadow.

Empire of influence; a statu  
in; ill; per



# Lesson Six

gaff

Enggerating is like using a **gaff** to catch a goldfish.

with a large hook and

# Lesson Six

## glutinous

Roxanne used the most abrasive soap she could find, but she could not remove the **glutinous** pine sap from her hands.

adj. sticky; sappy

# Lesson Six

## mandarin

Lower classes do not always welcome the advice  
of condescending **mandarins**

...tial person; a member of  
... group

# Lesson Six

quaff

Thinking Juliet is dead, Romeo **quaffs** poison to join her in death.

to drink in large quantities; to

*syn. quuzzle, swig*

*ant. sip*

# Lesson Six

## Nepotism

Company **nepotism** led to an excess of family executives, who ignored valuable business ideas from the outside.

Nepotism shown to family or friends is especially a business practice.

# Lesson Six

## bibliophile

To a real **bibliophile**, discovering a first edition of a classic in fine condition and autographed by the author is like striking gold.

a lover of books

# Lesson Six

## Enmity

Ancient **enmity** prevented the warring countries from ever achieving peace.

...seated hostility, open n

...: *hated; and don't*

...ent: *hands,*



# Lesson Seven



# Lesson Seven

cadaverous

**cadaverous** refugees barely had the strength to feed themselves

or like a corpse; pale; gauzy

syn: *ghastly*

ant: *robust; healthy*

# Lesson Seven

## Penury

Going from **penury** to riches is a classic American success story

- n.* extreme poverty
- syn.* destitution
- we say:* opulence

# Lesson Seven

flux

His views were so often in **flux** that many called him a perpetual flip-flopper.

of continual change, or n

*fluctuation, instability*

*stability; stability*

# Lesson Seven

## Egress

Flying terrified Marnie, so she always wore a parachute and knew where the nearest egress point was.

an exit, a means of going  
syn: passage  
ingress; egress

# Lesson Seven

## gothic

If you want to experience a creepy mystery, read *The Castle of Otranto*, the first **gothic** novel.

...the middle ages; of a rela  
...prote que, and de late  
...tion

# Lesson Seven

**gird**

He **girded** himself for the tough exam and the possibility that he might have to explain a poor grade on it to his parents.

Prepare for an event or an activity by *girding* yourself.

# Lesson Seven

## despot

The oppressed citizens trembled when the tyrannical **despot** made eye contact with them.

dictator with absolute power

syn: tyrant

# Lesson Seven

## hovel

One person's **hovel** is another person's edifice.

*n.* a cratched living place, an open shed

*syn.* shanty; shack

*ant.* palace; mansion



# Lesson Seven

## felicity

He always looked forward to the perishable  
**felicity** of fall.

*n.* happiness; bliss

*v.* exultation; delight

*adj.* happiness; joy

# Lesson Seven

## daunt

If you have prepared well for the game, even the fiercest competition will not **daunt** you.

*to make afraid; to discourage*  
*intimidate; dishearten*  
*discourage*



# Lesson Eight

# Lesson Eight

## desist

“Cease and **desist**” the lawyer said, repeating  
himself as usual.

v. to stop; discontinue  
*syn: cease, and  
quit; gain; s*

# Lesson Eight

## Effrontery

**Effrontery** dominated the political advertisements in the months before the election.

*n.* shameless boldness  
impudence; nerve; audacity  
and timidity

# Lesson Eight

## glean

Detective Thomas knew how to **glean** important information from even the most hostile witnesses.

to gather information bit by bit; to gather with persistence

*syn: garner*

*ant: disperse*

# Lesson Eight

## elite

An **elite** corps of impudent snobs savagely  
mocked the computer nerds.

choice members or best of

*syn: leaders*

*con: snob, m. elite*

# Lesson Eight

## imbibe

Since George was the designated driver, he did not **imbibe** any alcohol that night.

drink especially alcohol



# Lesson Eight

beget

Fire **begets** water by melting ice.

produce; to make  
synthesize  
generate  
annex

# Lesson Eight

educe

Panic **educes** irrational responses in people who are ordinarily calm and logical.

to draw or bring out

*elicited*

*elicited*

# Lesson Eight

## Allude

Do not **allude** to it when you can describe it in direct, exciting detail.

hint at to refer to indirectly

Syn: suggest, imp

an expos

# Lesson Eight

## feign

The politician **feigned** sympathy but acted with enmity.

to hint, to refer to indirectly  
*syn. suggest; imply*  
*and expose*

# Lesson Eight

## chafe

Over twenty-six miles of constant running **chafed** the marathoner and slowed his pace to a crawl.

Chafing is skin irritation, often through rubbing or friction.



# Lesson Nin

# Lesson Nine

## qualm

Selfie had a sudden **qualm** about racing up all 10 floors of the Empire State Building.

a feeling of uneasiness  
*syn. misgiving*  
a conscience

# Lesson Nine

## Granary

**Granaries** are often built above the ground to keep stored food from mice and other animals.

storehouse for grain



# Lesson Nine

## Demise

After talking pictures replaced silent films in the early 1930s, actors with unpleasant voices experienced the **demise** of their movie careers.

Death, or ceasing to exist  
*termination; end*

# Lesson Nine

## eradicate

The electromagnetic pulse cannon, when deployed, can damage or **eradicate** computer systems in the targeted area.

to wipe out; to destroy  
*synonyms* eliminate  
*antonyms* create

# Lesson Nine

## bilks

Beware of late-night TV con artists trying to **bilks** you out of money.

Great swindlers to watch out for are *con*, *fraud*,

# Lesson Nine

## Lampoon

If you direct a **lampoon** at people in authority, be ready for the consequences.

A lampoon is a form of satire used to ridicule or mock someone.

*"The cartoonist's lampoon can be a powerful tool for social commentary."*

# Lesson Nine

emitted

The witch **emitted** a chilling cackle as she stirred  
the poisonous brew.

to give forth, as a source  
to produce a discharge, to ea

# Lesson Nine

## Fabricate

Whether her dreams were boring, she **fabricated** more adventurous ones.

**fabricate** (verb): to invent or concoct; to make up a story in order to deceive

**fabricator** (noun): one who fabricates

**syn.** concoct; make up

# Lesson Nine

## decadence

A prolonged excess of unnecessary diversions  
propelled the society into **decadence**.

*n.* moral deterioration  
*v.* *to decay; corruption; decline*  
*n.* *decadence*

# Lesson Nine

narcissistic

"It's all about me," said the **narcissistic** diva.

*adj* Conceited; having excessive self-love

of admiration

*syn:* vain; egotistic

*ant:* humble; modest



# Lesson Nine

## choleric

One little criticism, and the red-faced man  
became **choleric**.

*adj.* easily angered  
*adj.* irascible; cantankerous  
*adj.* impatient; impatient

# Lesson Nine

## aghast

When the detective declared that Joe was betting on snail races, the gambler faked an **aghast** response.

feeling great dismay or horror  
*aghast* (horrible)

# Lesson Nine

## Homily

Spanius the **homily** on saving money and give us a loan.

in a sermon

in lecture; speed

# Lesson Nine

ghastly

Pierre's story was so **ghastly** we could tell he was making it up.

*adj.* horrible; frightful

*syn.* dreadful; hideous

*ant.* lovely; attractive

# Lesson Nine

## Impede

Deciding to sit in the middle of a busy street, the protest group first **impeded** traffic and then stopped it.

v. to hinder, obstruct  
syn. delay; retard  
ant. encourage



# Lesson Ten

# Lesson Ten

filch

J. K. Rowling named the Hogwarts caretaker Argus **Filch** because he is as sneaky as a thief.

to steal  
*syn. pilfer; pinch*

# Lesson Ten

## desolate

After giant ants took over the high school auditorium, the assemblies acquired a **desolate** and alienated look.

*desolate*: empty; forlorn; uninhabited; *desolatus*: deserted, bleak  
*desolatus*: desolate, desolatus, desolatus, desolatus



# Lesson Ten

## dawdle

You **dawdle** and dally and always arrive late.

v. to waste time  
syn: tarry; loiter  
ant: hasten; expedite

# Lesson Ten

## Fallible

Raw data programmed into a computer delivers **fallible** output, or as the saying goes, garbage in, garbage out.

*adj.* capable of error  
*syn:* imperfect  
*ant:* infallible, flawless

# Lesson Ten

fawn

Weekly magazines encourage their readers to **fawn** over the current popular celebrities.

to act slavishly submissive

*syn: grovel*

*syn: ignore, disregard*

# Lesson Ten

## pacify

The negotiator tried to **pacify** the angry group of outside agitators.

**pacify** v. to calm down

*syn:* appease; placate

*ant:* provoke; agitate

# Lesson Ten

## affiliate

She tried to become an honorary **affiliate** of Save the Kinkajous, but soon regretted it when one of the animals attacked him.

an associate; partner  
*member; colleague*

# Lesson Ten

## calumny

No **calumny** was used to win the election.

False and malicious accusation

*syn: slander; slur*

*ant: compliment*

# Lesson Ten

prevaricate

**Prevaricate**

all you want, but sooner or later the truth will come out.

v. to lie  
syn: hedge

# Lesson Ten

berate

Instead of **berating** the insistent beggar, Frederick took him to a diner and bought him a meal.

to rebuke or reprove severely and  
admonish; reprimand  
and praise



# Lesson Ten

## bane

“You are the **bane** of my existence,” John said to his annoying stockbroker.

use of pain, harm, distress

*syn: blight, curse*

*ant: assistance*

# Lesson Ten

## blatant

Manly saw **blatant** fashion errors all around her, so she wore understated outfits.

*obvious; too conspicuous*

*unconcealed; demerated*

*secretive; ostentatious*

# Lesson Ten

## Neophyte

People love to see the **neophytes** beat the experts.

as a beginner

*syn: novice; amateur*

*ant: expert; veteran*

# Lesson Ten

## Minion

The **minions** kept their leader from seeing that the country was plunging into chaos.

*a fawning, servile follower*

*syn: lackey*

*ant: leader*

# Lesson Ten

## garble

When you are tired, it is easy to **garble** the simplest instructions.

v. to mix up or distort

n. *jumble; confusion*



# Lesson Eleven

# Lesson Eleven

## genesis

An etymologist studies the history, development, and **genesis** of words.

*n.* beginning; origin  
*syn.* start; birth  
*con.* conclusion

# Lesson Eleven

## futile

Don Quixote tilted at windmills, and his odd and hopeless fight has become a classically futile gesture.

*adj.* useless; pointless

*n.* ineffectual; fruitless

*v.* enervate; weaken



# Lesson Eleven

## emissary

**Emissaries** must be skilled in the art of diplomacy.

an agent on a special mission to  
others  
ambassador

# Lesson Eleven

## Kindred

Love at first sight entails two people with **kindred** emotions who become instant soul mates.

*syn: similar origin, nature, or*

*syn: homogeneous*

*anti: disparate*

# Lesson Eleven

carp

Those who **carp** are seldom welcome at a party.

to complain or to find fault in a petty or bladdering way

*grumble; nag; nitpick*

*criticize; lecture*

# Lesson Eleven

## Lacerate

The dog **lacerated** Marcie's nose, but at least it didn't break it.

to tear flesh jaggedly

syn: slash; gash;

ant: cut

# Lesson Eleven

## queue

When you are on hold as caller number twelve in a phone **queue**, your wait can seem endless.

A line of people or vehicle

# Lesson Eleven

## immaculate

On December 23, 1972, Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers made an amazing catch of a football that became known as the **immaculate** reception.

*adj.* spotless; perfect  
*syn.* clean; pure  
*ant.* blemished;

# Lesson Eleven

## Flagrant

It's the **flagrant** errors you can usually spot right away; the subtle ones are often tougher to detect.

glaringly bad, outrageous  
offensive *sham* lesson

# Lesson Eleven

## fracas

When it is hot, competition is fierce and tempers are short, and there is often a **fracas** on the practice field.

a loud quarrel or fight  
*syn: brav*



# Lesson Eleven

## nefarious

Stalin and Hitler are generally considered to be the most **nefarious** despots of the twentieth century.

*adj.* very wicked; noxious  
*syn.* villainous; despicable  
*ant.* reputable;

# Lesson Eleven

## query

Pat **queried** the lawyer and received a vague cloud of words in reply.

v. to ask; inquire  
*question; inquire*

# Lesson Eleven

## patrician

In England, **patricians** are found in the House of Lords.

mean: an aristocrat

syn: noble

ant: commoner

# Lesson Eleven

## facade

These days, men and women can buy the facade they want from their plastic surgeons.

ceptive outward appearance

misrepresentation

pretense, cover

# Lesson Eleven

**gait**

He had an unusual side-to-side **gait** that made him easy to spot.

a manner of walk  
*strange walk*



# Lesson Twelve

# Lesson Twelve

## havoc

“O, **havoc**, and let slip the dogs of war,” said

Mark Antony, predicting the chaos that would

follow Caesar’s assassination.

Meaning: great destruction, chaos.

Synonyms: mayhem, disorder, anarchy.

Antonyms: order.

# Lesson Twelve

## careen

Daredevil Peter attempted a quick turnaround and caused his father's car to **careen** into a ditch.

to move or lurch from side to side in a sudden motion

syn: *tilt*



# Lesson Twelve

## anthropomorph

Elvira's cat narrowed its eyes and began to speak in a kind of **anthropomorphic**, purring language.

*adj.* attributing human  
or qualities to objects &  
animals

# Lesson Twelve

guile

It was **guile** that helped the farmer keep the fox  
out of the henhouse.

and cunning in dealing with  
craftiness; astuteness  
and shrewdness

# Lesson Twelve

eerie

The strange collection of ragtag creatures danced across the **eerie** landscape by night.

mysterious; strange and

*syn:* creepy; sinister

*ant:* common; ordinary

# Lesson Twelve

fester

The beautiful park **festered** under the neglect of the city government.

How emittred over time;  
aggravate, for

# Lesson Twelve

## beneficiary

Wealthy athletes today are the **beneficiaries** of the effort but underpaid professionals who played years ago.

one who receives benefit

*Latin: recipient, beneficiary*

# Lesson Twelve

**deluge**

Tell one online store your email address, and you will probably receive a **deluge** of electronic spam.

**deluge**: a flood; an overwhelming amount

*syn.* inundation; surging

*ant.* drought; dearth

# Lesson Twelve

## Martial

Specialists in **martial** arts seldom make good movie actors.

Warlike; relating to the military

# Lesson Twelve

pall

A **pall** of shame clouded his face.

Something that covers or conceals  
syn: *shroud*



# Lesson Twelve

## aplomb

The **aplomb** of Katrina reflected her grace under pressure.

*n.* self-confidence

*n.* assurance, poise

*v.* to advance

# Lesson Twelve

## languish

If you do not practice with energy, you will **languish** on the bench during a game.

*to become weak or feeble, to lose  
strength, to wither, to languish  
and to thrive*

# Lesson Twelve

## rancid

No one wanted to clean the bowl that contained the **rancid** potato salad.

Having a bad taste or smell;

*syn: rotten; repulsive*

*ant: fresh*

# Lesson Twelve

## Catholic

He traveled widely and acquired catholic tastes and eccentricities.

*adi.* universal; wide-ranging

*ent. provincial* limited p

# Lesson Twelve

## modicum

A **modicum** of money is better than none.

*n.* a small amount

*syn:* bit

*ant:* abundance



# Lesson Thirteen

# Lesson Thirteen

## haughty

Consider who take a **haughty** attitude into a neighborhood restaurant are almost guaranteed to offend the locals.

*adj.* arrogant; proud

*syn:* arrogant

*ant:* humble, shy

# Lesson Thirteen

## Envisage

When you **envisage** success, you often attain it.

to form a mental picture

*imagine; visualize*



# Lesson Thirteen

## denigrate

Time and again, evidence shows that ads which **denigrate** components are more effective than positive ads.

to bring the reputation of someone or something down; to speak ill of

*syn:* defame, belittle, disparage

*ant:* praise, promote, glorify

# Lesson Thirteen

## effusive

It is shocking when an unemotional man of few words suddenly turns **effusive**.

*verb* (usually excessive; overly demonstrative)

*synonyms*: gushing

*antonyms*: reserved; restrained

# Lesson Thirteen

## holocaust

The rebels would sooner turn the city into a holocaust than surrender themselves to the invaders.

or complete destruction.

# Lesson Thirteen

## defunct

Laser surgery has rendered the scalpel **defunct** in certain applications.

*no longer in existence*

*obsolete; invalid; extinct*

# Lesson Thirteen

gape

Drivers who **gape** at accidents cause traffic  
backups and more accidents.

stare with an open mouth

# Lesson Thirteen

## anachronism

The author had Roman centurions looking at the  
their digital watches, a distinctly literary

**anachronism.**

something or someone exists  
outside of its proper time.

# Lesson Thirteen

## Lament

Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" is a melancholy **lament** for the dead.

*to mourn  
to grieve  
and rejoice*

# Lesson Thirteen

## Nemesis

An outraged humanity is the fatal **nemesis** of vicious despots.

*nemesis* *n*: someone or something a person cannot

overcome or achieve; a hated enemy

*syn:* rival; adversary

*collaborator, rival*



# Lesson Thirteen

## humane

The Geneva Convention help assure humane treatment for prisoners of war.

*adj.* kind; compassionate

*adv.* kindly; benevolent; considerately

*ant.* inhumane, cruel

# Lesson Thirteen

## Lackey

### Lackeys

get ahead by telling only the good news to their bosses.

*n.* a slavish follower  
*syn:* minion

# Lesson Thirteen

## lethal

Arlo's constant carping had a **lethal** effect on our good will.

adj. deadly; fatal  
syn: mortal  
ant: harmless

# Lesson Thirteen

## embroil

Maryn became **embroiled** in controversy after  
himself dishonest friends and relatives amid  
promises of ethics reform.

draw into a conflict or fight  
*syn: entangle*

# Lesson Thirteen

## impertinent

“You are an **impertinent** wit,” said the patrician  
to the uppity minion.

*adj.* rude and disrespectful

*syn.* insolent; impudent

*opp.* courteous



# Lesson Fourte

# Lesson Fourteen

## pallid

Lisa's painting of her mother was a **pallid** imitation of the Mona Lisa.

*adj.* pale; faint in color

*syn.* colorless

*ant.* hearty; rosy

# Lesson Fourteen

## epitaph

After Seán declared, "let no man write my **epitaph**," he wrote his own

on a tombstone of brick  
at a disease home



# Lesson Fourteen

## Alacrity

Do not dawdle, but move with timely **alacrity**

readiness, willingness, eagerness

*enthusiasm; readiness; zeal*

*promptness; readiness*

# Lesson Fourteen

## Jargon

Specialists in Information Technology use computer **jargon** that almost no one else seems to understand.

Jargon is very distinctive to a particular group of people. It is a specialized terminology, like

# Lesson Fourteen

## frivolous

Despite the seriousness of the topic, Edna remained **frivolous**, playing everything for laughs.

adj. trivial; silly;  
inconsequential, unimportant

# Lesson Fourteen

## Lateral

The stock market is in a **lateral** drift, as if waiting for something to happen.

of one relating to the side  
*syn: sideways*

# Lesson Fourteen

## Judicious

You expect **judicious** opinions from the Supreme Court.

showing sound judgment

*sensible; wise; careful*

*impractical*

# Lesson Fourteen

## Carnage

The **carnage** was shocking during the American Civil War: about 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died.

body and extensive fighting  
bloodshed; state

# Lesson Fourteen

## Catalyst

William Styron's time served in the United States Marine Corps became the **catalyst** for his novel, *The Long March*.

A **catalyst** is a person, thing, or agent that speeds up a process or causes a result, reaction, or change to happen; very important.

# Lesson Fourteen

foible

Seneca forgave Barack his **foibles** but not his blatant lapses in judgment.

nor weakness in character  
*faux short form*



# Lesson Fourteen

deify

First he hero-worshipped the coach, then he **deified** him.

to regard a god or to look upon or regard as a god

god

*deify*; *deify*; *deify*; *deify*

*deify*; *deify*; *deify*; *deify*

# Lesson Fourteen

harp

If you **harp** and **harp** your audience will tune you out.

Don't get into talking continuously about something. For example, don't

# Lesson Fourteen

impetuous

Stop your **impetuous** youth, and reconsider.

acting suddenly without thought

*syn: impulsive, rash*

*ant: planned, careful*

# Lesson Fourteen

## impel

Astrologers say that the stars **impel**, they do not compete.

v. push into motion  
urge, force, propel, drive  
without restraint

# Lesson Fourteen

## benediction

As the troops prepared for battle, the chaplain  
gave them his **benediction**.

the act of blessing  
*curia; maledictio*



# Lesson Fifteen

# Lesson Fifteen

## equivocal

“A great kingdom will fall,” the **equivocal** prophet said, but no one knew which kingdom he meant.

ambiguous; intentionally vague

*syn. uncertain, cryptic*

*ant. certain, definite*

# Lesson Fifteen

## Chicanery

With accounting **chicanery**, some executives falsely inflate corporate revenues to mislead investors.

It's a kind of tricks or clever talk to mislead or evade the truth. *chicanery; subterfuge; chicanery; subterfuge; chicanery; subterfuge*



# Lesson Fifteen

## Debonair

So **debonair** was Dennis that he made the most complex dance steps seem free and easy.

*adj.* (of a person) free and self-confident in behavior; elegant and graceful; charming; refined, suave  
*adv.* awfully

# Lesson Fifteen

## macabre

Gothic novels are well known for their **macabre** stories.

*adj:* horrible; grim  
*syn:* ghastly, sinister  
*ant:* beautiful, love

# Lesson Fifteen

## genealogy

## genealogy

The snooty patrician thought her royal lineage granted her special privileges.

*n.* family history  
*syn.* lineage

# Lesson Fifteen

## feisty

The movie "Rudy" tells the true story of a small but **feisty** young man who, against all odds, makes the elite football team at Notre Dame.

aggressive; lively; energetic

*syn: spirited, brisk*

*and: tharg*

# Lesson Fifteen

## impervious

Elise was so confident that she was **impervious** to even the coldest insults.

incapable of being affected  
*resistant; invulnerable*  
*impervious; invulnerable*

# Lesson Fifteen

## deplete

When a professional hockey player **depletes** his supply of electrolytes, he often consumes an energy drink to replenish them.

*v.* to use up gradually

*syn:* empty; exhaust

*ant:* replenish

# Lesson Fifteen

## gull

These days, with all the advanced techniques in sales, it's difficult to figure out who is telling the truth, and who is trying to gull you.

to cheat; to fool one  
to deceive; scare; trick

# Lesson Fifteen

## farcical

When the leading man slipped on a banana peel, the movie turned **farcical**.

absurd; ridiculous; clown

*syn: ridiculous; funny*

*ant: sober; serious*



# Lesson Fifteen

nadir

Some people cannot appreciate the top until after they have hit the **nadir**.

*nadir: lowest point*

*zenith: bottom*

*apex: peak; zenith*

# Lesson Fifteen

## penchant

Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis, had a **penchant** for what was then called the talking cure.

*n.* a strong liking or preference; inclination; bias  
*v.* to incline; to abhor

# Lesson Fifteen

## Adjunct

The doctor made aspirin the **adjunct** treatment to be used with the penicillin he prescribed for the patient.

...ted or attached to ... a de  
... auxiliary manner, ... n

# Lesson Fifteen

filial

John's mother tested his **filial** loyalty by crashing  
his prized car.

to, or befitting a

# Lesson Fifteen

## Mitigate

Nothing Peter could do would **mitigate** the harsh punishment.

**Mitigate** means to make less severe; to be compared to: *diminish; alleviate; moderate; exonerate*.



# Lesson Sixteen

# Lesson Sixteen

**lax**

**Lax** efforts produce unwelcome results.

*adj. careless or negligent*

*syn: slack; neglected*

*ant: careful; meticulous*

# Lesson Sixteen

## impermeable

As a master of disguise, the spy had yet to discover a nation with an **impermeable** border.

*adj.* not permitting passage, especially of fluids  
*impenetrable, impenitible*  
*not permeable*



# Lesson Sixteen

## Aphorism

Benjamin Franklin coined such wise **aphorisms** as “eat to live, not live to eat” and “in this world nothing can be certain but death and taxes.”

A statement of a truth or  
*daily maxim* so

# Lesson Sixteen

## Affliction

“Sometimes, you are the major **affliction** of my life,” said Harold’s angry mother.

Anything causing great suffering or difficulty; pain, burden, or affliction; relief; and

# Lesson Sixteen

deleted

Charnelle **deleted** her annoying boyfriend from  
her life.

v. to take out; to remove  
syn. erase; cancel  
ant. include; add

# Lesson Sixteen

## obeisance

Rendering **obeisance** to the emperor, the samurai bowed low to the ground.

A similar gesture expresses respect.

# Lesson Sixteen

## palpable

When the judge entered the courtroom, an almost **palpable** sense of expectation swept through the spectators.

capable of being touched or felt; evident; conspicuous; obvious; unambiguous

# Lesson Sixteen

mendicant

The mayor could not decide what to do about the problem of paying **mendicants** in her city.

n/a a beggar

# Lesson Sixteen

## paeans

Norman Rockwell's magazine illustrations are regarded as heartwarming **paeans** to a patriotic America.

expression, or song of joy  
*an acclaim; a hymn*

# Lesson Sixteen

daub

There's a vast difference between a master painter and someone who only **daubs** a canvas.

to paint coarsely or unskillfully

*syn: smear*



# Lesson Sixteen

## Oscillate

Marilyn was fond of asking embarrassing questions and watching how her friends' answers **oscillated** back and forth.

oscillating or move back and forth  
pendulum  
*oscillate* *v* *transitive*

# Lesson Sixteen

## cache

In computer science, a **cache** stores important data that can be easily accessed whenever needed.

...ed store of goods ... va  
... heard; re

# Lesson Sixteen

imperturbable

Grades were exploding around him, but Sgt

Basine remained **imperturbable** during the

curious assault on his position.

ily excited, even under p  
collected; un

# Lesson Sixteen

oust

The American Revolution **ousted** the English and secured liberty for the new country.

to drive out; expel; deprive

Latin: *eieci*

# Lesson Sixteen

## admonish

The prosecutor **admonished** the witness for refusing to testify against the defendant.

*to warn; to caution in a serious way*

*advice; notification*



# Lesson Seventy

# Lesson Seventeen

desecrate

Careless tourists accidentally **desecrated** the shrine.

to damage a holy place or to treat with irreverence

Synonyms: vandalize, violate

Antonyms: venerate, revere

# Lesson Seventeen

## pedagogue

The **pedagogue** never believed the aphorism  
“those who can, do; those who can't, teach.”

*n.* a school teacher;  
syn. *educator*



# Lesson Seventeen

fiat

It is better to govern by persuasion than to force  
by **fiat**

*n.* an official order  
*decree; authorization*

# Lesson Seventeen

fluent

Professor Destry could not find anyone who was  
**fluent** in Xhosa, a South African “click” language.

express oneself easily and fluently

*synwell-versed*

*and inept*

# Lesson Seventeen

## aloof

Gabrielle remained **aloof** after overhearing friends talking about her behind her back.

*adj. reserved, distant  
detached; cold; remote  
not warm; friendly*

# Lesson Seventeen

## melee

It seems that every November a **melee** breaks out when consumers try to buy the latest electronic game.

a noisy, confused fight  
*skirmish; scuffle*

# Lesson Seventeen

## Fidelity

When the captain ordered the crew to abandon ship, their **fidelity** turned to mutiny.

*syn: faithfulness*

*syn: loyalty; devotion*

*ant: treachery*

# Lesson Seventeen

## personification

By abandoning all the standards of decency, Hitler became the **personification** of evil.

a person or thing that represents an idea

# Lesson Seventeen

## hilarity

Uncle Buster slipped on a banana peel and  
**hilarity** ensued.

*n.* gaiety; joviality;  
mirth; merriment; the  
sawdust; merriment

# Lesson Seventeen

## Enzootic

If the infected animals are not quarantined, an outbreak will **ensue**

likely to follow as a result  
symptoms resulting  
caused



# Lesson Seventeen

## bias

The political group was so consumed by bias that even its simplest instructions were imbued with spin.

It did not matter whether the group was  
opposed to a new either for or against  
a particular preference  
or not, it was *always* favored.

# Lesson Seventeen

## rambunctious

The **rambunctious** puppy leaped high in the air and landed with its muddy paws on Shana, an innocent bystander.

*adj.* unruly; uncontrollable

*adj.* wild; disorderly; boisterous

*adj.* imprecise,

# Lesson Seventeen

## pariah

Marge worried that wearing the wrong clothes would make her a **pariah**.

*n.* a social outcast

*n.* exile; outcast

*n.* outcast

# Lesson Seventeen

gyrate

Stock prices **gyrated** wildly, and brokers failed to detect any valuable market trends.

to revolve or revolve quickly to  
revolve; revolve; revolve

# Lesson Seventeen

cavort

A surprising number of clowns emerged from the tiny Volkswagen and **cavorted** about the ring.

out in a sprightly manner  
*frollic prancings*



# Lesson Eight

# Lesson Eighteen

## gratis

The public defender provides a **gratis** defense to people who cannot afford legal assistance.

free without charge

# Lesson Eighteen

## conjecture

able news often seems to feature self-proclaimed experts, full of **conjecture** about matters they pretend to understand.

ment of opinion based on questionable evidence.

*conjecture; guess*

*conjecture*



# Lesson Eighteen

## progeny

The **progeny** of a single pair of rabbits soon turned into a legion that regularly pillaged the vegetable garden.

*n.* offspring; children

*n.* descendants; young

*n.* parent; ancestor

# Lesson Eighteen

## faux

The crack in the plastic veneer belied the car's **faux** wood dashboard.

artificial; false; not genuine

*syn: fake; imitation*

*ant: authentic, real*

# Lesson Eighteen

## genocide

In the last half of the twentieth century, dozens of **genocides** occurred around the world, resulting in over 23 million deaths.

...erated destruction of a g  
... people

# Lesson Eighteen

materialistic

**materialistic** society values money and

purchases far more than ethical and intellectual

pursuits

valuing material possessions

*and altruis*

# Lesson Eighteen

## monolithic

In the film, extraterrestrials leave a **monolithic** artifact on Earth four million years ago to influence primitive man's evolutionary progression.

...sive uniform a

# Lesson Eighteen

## foray

Melanie didn't merely go to the library; she conducted **forays** into the great mysteries of postmodern poetry.

... a surprise attack  
... *rank incursion*

# Lesson Eighteen

quintessential

Always the **quintessential** professor, Dr. Jones

even wore the prescribed tweed jacket with

the suede patches on the elbows.

...the most typical ideal

...: *model; standard*

# Lesson Eighteen

## predilection

His **predilection** for hasty decisions led him into major errors.

...ance toward someone or something; preference; partiality; bias; inclination; aversion; preference



# Lesson Eighteen

## belabor

Mr. Rice made his point and then **belabored** it before an audience of increasingly bored listeners.

to speak at something beyond practicality; to overstress

syn: stress; overstate

ant: overstate; overstate

# Lesson Eighteen

## rudimentary

Sheerock Holmes could have said his deductions were **rudimentary**, but he told Dr. Watson they were “elementary.”

not refined or well developed  
*rudimentary*; undeveloped  
*rudimentary* philosophy

# Lesson Eighteen

## allocate

Helene **allocated** funds equally to all her children except for the evil twin, who received a lump sum of coal.

distribute, allot, or assign

*synonym: apportion, pass*

# Lesson Eighteen

zaftig

At the time in history, a **zaftig** figure was an indicator of a family's economic prosperity.

Having a full, shapely figure  
*syn. burvaceous*

# Lesson Eighteen

## manifesto

After declaring himself emperor for life, Dr. Insano broadcast his **manifesto**, outlining his intended form of government.

declaration of policies or principles  
*manifesto*, proclamation



# Lesson Ninete

# Lesson Nineteen

## mollify

Mano became so choleric that her friends could not **mollify** her.

to reduce, soothe, or calm  
*syn. placate, pacify*  
*ant. enrage*

# Lesson Nineteen

**tantamount**

When pushy Estler requested a favor, it was **tantamount** to a demand.

essentially equal value or significance  
*tantamount; commensurate; incommensurable*



# Lesson Nineteen

## sedentary

South American sloths are so **sedentary** that they sleep 18 hours a day and hardly move at all when awake.

is characterized by or requiring  
little or no motionless  
*syn. inactivity*

# Lesson Nineteen

## amenable

No matter how much the detective pressured him, the suspect never became **amenable** to admitting the crime.

amenable; responsive to suggestion

advice

responsive; pliant

flexible

# Lesson Nineteen

## Junta

A military **junta** remained in office for one year after seizing power.

A group ruling a country with military power.

# Lesson Nineteen

## influx

The rapid **influx** of illegal immigrants required fair and realistic changes in government policies.

*n.* an inward flow  
*and outflow*

# Lesson Nineteen

## conductive

Even after years of experience, some actors claim that appearing in front of a live audience is still **conductive** to stage fright.

...ing is cause or being a  
...yn: contribute

# Lesson Nineteen

## patina

So many pedestrians rubbed the lion statue's nose for good luck that it acquired an attractive **patina** over the years.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a surface resulting from  
long use.

# Lesson Nineteen

## plaintive

As I sat on the lake, Peter heard the **plaintive**,  
desperate wailing and woe-ful wailing  
series cry of a loon.

expressing sorrow, mournful

*syn: melancholic*

*ant: joyful*

# Lesson Nineteen

## pinnacle

Sam has experienced enough to know that life's **pinnacles** can be quickly followed by its nadirs.

*n.* a peak or clim

*syn:* summit, apex

*ant:* nadir



# Lesson Nineteen

## stricture

While celebrating Mardi Gras, some partying students ignore reasonable **strictures** placed on them by parents.

*n.* a restraint or limitation; conditions; restraints

# Lesson Nineteen

rigorous

Karen tried and failed to comply with her coach's **rigorous** demands.

*rigorous*: severe; relentless; harsh

*arduous*; *austere*; *stringent*

*onerous*; *painful*

# Lesson Nineteen

## subversive

In public, the bibliophile was loyal, but in private he was **subversive** in words and deeds.

opposite: opposition to authority, or government

synonyms: *disident; rebellious*

antonyms: *loyal*

# Lesson Nineteen

## perjury

A conviction attained through **perjury** is an improper victory in a court of law.

the act of lying under oath

# Lesson Nineteen

## placebo

Suspecting the illness was imaginary, the doctor prescribed a harmless **placebo** to the patient.

used in the testing of new



# Lesson Twenty

# Lesson Twenty

malodorous

Ferry asked the neighbors to move their **malodorous** compost heap away from his property line.

Having an offensive odor  
is *malodorous* or *stinking*.

# Lesson Twenty

## Nanotechnology

**Nanotechnology** is helping to advance the fields

of computer storage, semiconductors, biotechnology, manufacturing, and energy.

The use of single atoms and molecules to construct microscopic



# Lesson Twenty

## Piquant

Emily avoided eating **piquant** food while she was recovering from a stomach virus.

a strong, stimulating taste

*syn. spicy; tangy*

*an island*

# Lesson Twenty

## precept

Examine your **precepts** carefully before you make them lifelong standards of conduct.

a principle of action; a principle to  
*syn. law; axiom*

# Lesson Twenty

## Impasse

A bargaining **impasse** is mutually harmful, so negotiators advise disputing parties to accept mediation and settle their differences.

... or predicament with no  
... resolution  
... dilemma

# Lesson Twenty

## concurrent

When a prisoner is serving two sentences, he can be released only after the longer one is completed.

happening at the same time

*syn. simultaneous*

*concurrent; simultaneous*

# Lesson Twenty

## Notarize

He **notarized** the deed, impressing a seal on it, and then charged a fee for his services.

v. to certify legal

# Lesson Twenty

## renege

If you **renege** on a legally binding agreement with the government, you could be fined.

to break a promise or obligation

Synonyms: *breach; abandon*

# Lesson Twenty

**erroneous**

“Your answers are not only **erroneous**, they’re subversive!” Professor Steinmetz declared angrily.

*adj.* incorrect; mistaken  
*syn:* flawed  
*ant:* correct

# Lesson Twenty

## Acumen

Linda's critical **acumen** imbued her movie reviews with valuable insights.

to discern or discriminate; see

keenness; sharpness

significance; importance



# Lesson Twenty

visage

Behold the bleak and desolate **visage** of winter.

face or facial expression  
*countenance* features

# Lesson Twenty

## negligible

Horton worked for months on the project, but  
it produced only **negligible** results.

of little importance; insignificant  
*syn: unimportant; trivial*  
*ant: significant; noteworthy*

# Lesson Twenty

## wunderkind

Bobby Fischer, the first American to become a world chess champion, displayed the prowess of a **wunderkind** at age six.

to excel in a difficult field at a young age

syn: prodigy

# Lesson Twenty

irrevocable

Interturbable as always, Socrates knew that death is **irrevocable** but he maintained that no

true philosopher would fear it

able to retract or reverse; irrevocable  
*permanently; unchangeable*

# Lesson Twenty

## pungent

The **pungent** smell of raw, chopped garlic drifted from the kitchen.

*adj.* a sharp taste; arid

*syn:* sharp

*ant:* mild



# Lesson Twenty

# Lesson Twenty-One

## recumbent

The **recumbent** bike allows Jane to work out with her back supported, as though she were lying down.

*adj.* resting or lying down  
*syn:* reclining  
*ant:* upright

# Lesson Twenty-One

## Fortitude

National **fortitude** enabled a nation to endure the many sacrifices necessary for the Allies to win World War II.

*n.* strength in adversity  
*n.* determination; tenacity  
*ant.* weakness



# Lesson Twenty-One

## dynasty

Authentic vases produced during the Ming **dynasty** can bring enormous prices at auction.

... of rulers from the same group

# Lesson Twenty-One

## meritorious

While others lost their heads in panic, Zehline stayed cool under pressure and earned a

**meritorious** award from her school.

receiving of an award for heroic

*laudable; laudable; meritorious;*

*deserving; meritorious; meritorious;*

# Lesson Twenty-One

## kleptomania

Legally, **kleptomania** is not classified as insanity, and people are usually held responsible for acting on their irresistible impulses to steal.

Annual urge to steal mar  
economic news

# Lesson Twenty-One

## botch

**Botch** the grammar of your essay and your knowledgeable readers will not be happy with you.

through clumsiness to  
*fix*

# Lesson Twenty-One

## perennial

Some teams always seem to win, and some are **perennial** losers.

*adj.* lasting indefinitely  
*n.* enduring; perpetual  
*v.* floating; infinite

# Lesson Twenty-One

confuted

The prosecution lawyer **confuted** the defendant's alibi point by point until he slumped over in defeat on the witness stand.

to argue or point out errors

*syn: refute; disprove*

*ant: confirm; verify*

# Lesson Twenty-One

forte

\_\_\_\_\_ Kids used to mock the geek whose **forte** was computers, but they stopped after he founded a software company and took over the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ an area of expertise or strength

\_\_\_\_\_ *syn: specialty, talent*

\_\_\_\_\_ *ant: weakness*

# Lesson Twenty-One

## Ineffable

The **ineffable** loss of her entire family to a car accident left the little girl in a state of shock for weeks.

It was sacred or great to be described as ineffable, indescribable, or unrepresentable; unrepresentable; unrepresentable.



# Lesson Twenty-One

## tribulation

A series of rough exams loomed as extreme **tribulations** for James.

trouble, or difficulty; ex-  
amination; ordeal; hardship

# Lesson Twenty-One

## Renown

Though the composer had attained world renown before he was thirty years old, he died a pauper's death.

being well known and honored

*notoriety; popularity*

*notoriety; fame*

# Lesson Twenty-One

## mezzanine

The front rows of a **mezzanine** in a theater are also known as the “loge.”

“The best balcony in a theater”  
“The main stories in a city”

# Lesson Twenty-One

## brinkmanship

Dulles mastered the art of **brinkmanship**, staring down the enemy and making him blink first in defeat.

... a dangerous situation  
... disaster rather than a

# Lesson Twenty-One

## purport

Bandits who **purport** to know the real truth should always be regarded with skepticism until their facts can be verified.

He has no right to have or to give the false impression of being a lawyer, a doctor, a judge, a legislator, a clergyman, a public official, or a college claim, and