

Introduction +
Vocabulary Words

BOOK TWO

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L

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

divulge

The crook was cheered by his friends and
boasted by the police when he refused to

divulge the hideout.

to tell; to reveal (as a secret)

n. unveil; disclosure

disclosure

Lesson One

Dogmatic

Dogmatic politicians who reject their constituents' views usually get voted out of office.

Stubborn and dogmatic about

(unproven) beliefs

syn. dictatorial

min.

Lesson One

insipid

Readers considered the critic's ideas valuable, but regarded his presentation of them as **insipid**.

flavor: dull; not at all s

syn. flat; listless

challeng

Lesson One

extraneous

For a long time, James's family considered him **extraneous**, until he won the lottery.

irrelevant; not constituting a
synonymous
irrelevant; not constituting a
irrelevant; not constituting a
irrelevant; not constituting a

Lesson One

coerce

The factory manager **coerced** the striking union members into compliance.

by using pressure, intimidation,

threats,

or comp

Lesson One

jaundiced

Selma had seen too much unfairness and grief in the world and let her outlook become

jaundiced

adj. prejudiced; hostile

syn. skeptical, cynical

ant. optimistic; trusting

Lesson One

temerity

Sandra saw her investment as a necessary business risk, but her critics called it unwarranted **temerity** that threatened the company.

recklessness; a foolish disregard for danger

synonymous

audacity

Lesson One

gregarious

Marmosets are **gregarious** monkeys that gather in groups and chatter deafeningly in trees.

...; fond of the company

...: *genial; in*

...ent; *clus*



Lesson Two

Lesson Two

heresy

Thomas de Torquemada, a Spanish Inquisitor, punished **heresy** with torture in the **fifteenth** century.

The act of holding a belief that is not established doctrine is called **heresy**.

Lesson Two

docile

According to legend, Norway lemmings are so docile and inattentive that they readily follow one another into the sea and drown.

easy to teach or manage
submissive, compliant
manageable

Lesson Two

Libation

While Sam and Janet enjoyed a social libation or two, Ariadne waited soberly in the car as the designated driver.

especially on an
syn. intoxicant

Lesson Two

anathema

As Pompey stilted in to himself to pieces, he

hurled **anathema** at the queen, who had

correctly guessed his name.

1. a hated, repellent person or thing

2. a formal curse

3. a protestation

4. a thing that is antithetical

Lesson Two

banter

Most TV sitcoms consist of predictable **banter** and canned laughter.

...sing; playful conversation

...thing; badinage; wit

...opera

Lesson Two

castigate

A coach must **castigate** some **stubborn** players to gain their attention and **help** them play better.

criticize or punish severely
reprimand; chastise
praise

Lesson Two

gauche

In most social circles, drinking out of a finger bowl after a meal is considered **gauche**.

drinking social grace tact

syn awkward

ant grace

Lesson Two

Ignominy

The author suffered the **ignominy** of public shame when the jury found him guilty of plagiarism.

shame, disgrace or dishonor

disgrace, infamy

ignominia, ignominer

Lesson Two

motley

The biographer had to make sense of a **motley** collection of his subject's papers.

made up of dissimilar parts,

many colors

synonymous with *various*

independent

Lesson Two

emaciated

The humane society took in the **emaciated**

Shar Pei and fed it so well that some of the

dog's wrinkles smoothed out.

extremely thin: wasted and

syn: withered

ant: fat



Lesson Three

Lesson Three

Avarice

Consumed by **avarice**, King Midas wished for the power to turn everything he touched into gold.

Excessive or unbridled desire for wealth.

Latin: avaritia, avaritia

French: avarice

Lesson Three

furtive

Their **furtive** looks revealed their criminal intentions.

adj. stealthy; secretive

furtive / *surreptitious* / *sneaky*

all over

Lesson Three

bacchanalian

Driven by **bacchanalian** frivolity, the students
parked the professor's car in the cafeteria.

adj. wild and drunken
ant. *restrained*

Lesson Three

extradite

The team of agents **extradited** a high-ranking Nazi from Argentina after World War Two.

to turn over or deliver to the jurisdiction of another government or authority

pool

Lesson Three

Copious

Confronted with the prospect of a difficult exam, Serena took **copious** notes during class.

numerous; large in quantity
syn. profuse
ant. parsimonious

Lesson Three

Irascible

Ferdinand projected a constant personality to keep people from bothering him.

adj. easily angered
irritable; ill-tempered
n. *Pygmy*

Lesson Three

mercenary

Because its government had never formed an army, the island nation had to employ **mercenaries** to defend citizens from pirates and raiders.

Professional soldier hired by
army
ant: *volunte*

Lesson Three

Bastion

Threats of retaliation are typically the last **bastion** of a falling dictator.

defence or fort (or one of them)

English: bastion

Lesson Three

Jettison

The crew **jettisoned** the smoldering cargo before it caught fire and brought the entire plane down.

cast overboard; to discard;
*deploy; throw away;
discard; retain*

Lesson Three

Ostracize

The submarine crew **ostracized** the sailor they suspected of being a spy.

Ostracize: to shut out from a group or society by common consent

Synonyms: exile

Antonyms: accept



Lesson Four

Lesson Four

bigot

Despite having lived a life devoid of achievements, productivity, or honor, the **bigot** believed he was better than anyone who was not his own color.

Who is intolerant of differences?

Others

racism, extremists

Lesson Four

expunge

To make herself feel better, Martha **expunged** all memories of her mistakes.

to erase or eliminate
obliterate
add

Lesson Four

candid

After telling so many lies, the politician had a change of heart and decided to be candid.

adj. outspoken; blunt

syn: frank; direct

ant: evasive

Lesson Four

Argot

In computer **argot**, a “crash” means the machine has frozen and users cannot get any response from their keyboard or mouse.

Special words or phrases used by a specific group of people are called argot.

Lesson Four

negligence

Negligence caused Blair to step on his rake and whack himself in the head with the handle.

neglect, often resulting

Latin: prelesiones

care, atte

Lesson Four

appease

When you **appease** terrorists, you give them the incentive to repeat their behavior.

to make satisfied (or temporarily satisfied); to mollify

trava

Lesson Four

strident

The engineer threw the brake lever forward, and the engine's steel wheels emitted a **strident** howl as they froze and slid down the rails amid a shower of sparks.

harsh, sounding, grating

syn: shrill

ant: soothing

Lesson Four

Chaos

Somehow, Bertrand arrived on a **distractive** **chaos** and successfully wrote his **term paper**

while sitting in a noisy bus terminal.

n. complete disorder

v. confusion, jumble

v. to bring to a halt

Lesson Four

augment

Sandra tried to **augment** her weak performance by foolishly waving her arms.

enlarge; to increase in amount

intensely

expanded; supple

recessed; re-

Lesson Four

Jingoism

Jingoism is less prevalent among people whose children are old enough to go to war.

chauvinistic patriotism

aggressive war policy

policy



Lesson Five

Lesson Five

rancor

A meeting of calm, inescapable opponents
exploded into unproductive **rancor**.

extreme hatred of all with

animosity *enmity*

antagonism *sympathy*

Lesson Five

inexorable

The rebels captured after the unsuccessful
group faced **inexorable** penalties.

unrelenting; unyielding; unrelaxing

relentless: certain

reluctant: pro

Lesson Five

Element

The **clement** weather turned ugly with little warning, dropping hailstones as big as boulders.

adj. merciful; lenient

for bearing

talent,

Lesson Five

cliché

One person's **cliché** is another one's fresh
phrase.

...but ideas or overused ex-
... *platitude; 2. no-*

Lesson Five

adamant

Boothe remained **adamant** in his belief, even in the face of harsh criticism.

unyielding; firm in opinion

syn: stubborn

ant: malleable; pliant

Lesson Five

Diffident

Those who are **diffident** would be wise to remember that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Building self-confidence

son: timid

ant: outgoing

Lesson Five

opus

Many regard Tolstoy's *War and Peace* as his
magnam **opus**, his great work.

...ve work, especially a n
...tion "opus" would
...composition

Lesson Five

ostensible

The **ostensible** reason for Marie's good will was charity, but she was really just seeking public approval.

expressed but not necessarily
synonymous
an actual

Lesson Five

disparity

The team's loss showed the great **disparity** between sincere effort and successful results.

inequality; difference

syn: gap

ant: similar



Lesson Six

Lesson Six

condone

By **condoning** bad behavior, he encouraged it.

to forgive or overlook an offense

synonyms: pardon; excuse

antonyms: condemn

Lesson Six

Nuance

Art appreciation consists in recognizing and valuing a master painter's **nuances** of light and shadow.

...or subtle degree of differentiation, *shading*.

Lesson Six

connoisseur

The fake **connoisseur** removed the cork from the bottle of cheap wine, sniffed it knowingly, and pretended to appreciate its complex and spicy bouquet.

Expert in matters of culture,
the wine connoisseur
has a refined taste;
he is a true connoisseur.

Lesson Six

Enigma

How the thief stole the heavily guarded painting in broad daylight remains an enigma to this day.

Mystery, something seen
inexplicable
mystery; puzzle; pa

Lesson Six

Apathy

Armed only with a flashlight, the security guard found himself consumed by **apathy** while armed robbers stole items from the warehouse.

of interest; state of not

syn. indifference

ant. eager

Lesson Six

Officious

Officious people never seem to provide assistance when you really do need it.

They are overly eager to deliver unneeded or unwanted help.
Officious means "offensive; meddling; officious."

Lesson Six

Credence

Randolph gave so many false accounts of his adventures that people didn't give him **credence** on those rare occasions when he told the truth.

n. belief or trust

v. *to* *have* *faith*; *confide*

adj. *in* *one's* *belief*

Lesson Six

Jaunty

The mayor was known for his jaunty walk and big cigar.

Having a buoyant, self-confident
demeanor; brisk and crisp
manner; confident;

Lesson Six

dilettante

A dilettante has knowledge that's a mile wide
and an inch deep.

Who merely dabbles in an
art or science.

amateur, duffer

professor

Lesson Six

cult

Do not trust a **cult** that does whatever its leader says.

Organized group of people

devotion to a person or

principle

object



Lesson Seven

Lesson Seven

cynical

The **cynical** reporter assumed there was a government conspiracy behind every major event.

is scornful or distrustful of the sincerity of human motives

syn = skeptical

op

Lesson Seven

ambivalent

You're confused and **ambivalent** if you feel strongly both ways.

adj. Having opposing attitudes or feelings toward a person, thing, or idea; undecided.

She was **ambivalent** about deciding to go to college. She was **ambivalent** about whether to go to college.

Lesson Seven

demagogue

The **demagogue** always appealed to the people's emotion, but rarely to their rational side.

Demagogue: a person who appeals to citizens' emotions to obtain power.
le-trois-rois

Lesson Seven

demure

When on the hockey field, Ophelia abandons the **demure** act and gets rough and crazy.

quiet and modest, reserved

syn: prim

ant: indiscreet

Lesson Seven

Intrepid

In the movies, lawmen settled the American West with a big, **intrepid** smile and a bigger gun.

adj. without fear; brave

syn: bold; fearless

ant: coward

Lesson Seven

erudite

Being **erudite** usually doesn't mean much if

you can't apply such brilliance **in** a
profession that pays well.

adj. scholarly; learned

syn. *educated*

ant. *illiterate*

Lesson Seven

Dilemma

Wrong if you do and wrong if you don't is an age-old **dilemma**.

Choice between two unpleas-
ant difficult options

Lesson Seven

culmination

Her book was the **culmination** of almost three decades of research.

best point of attainment,

climax

synonym

ending

Lesson Seven

concur

Some thought the modern art statue was fascinating and inspiring, but her friends, who thought the object was a waste of taxpayers' money, did not **concur**.

the same opinion; to agree

concur: support, agree

dispute: argue



Lesson Eight

Lesson Eight

abate

Francesca's fever **abated** after she took the medicine.

lessen in violence or intensity

subsided; decreased

abated; in

Lesson Eight

decorum

After breaking classroom **decorum** for the third day in a row, Bobby received in-school suspension.

Conformity to accepted standards of conduct or proper behavior
synonym: propriety
antonym: impropriety

Lesson Eight

abhor

George **abhorred** his brother's tendency to
badmouth him to friends.

to detest; to hate strongly

syn: *dispise,loathe*

ant: *admire*

Lesson Eight

dole

The old miser stayed rich because he knew
when to **dole** out money carefully and when
to withhold it altogether.

contribute to give out
a hoard

Lesson Eight

gamut

Faced with a charging velociraptor, Sinbad experienced the full gamut of emotions before he dove into a nearby trash container.

whose range of emotion

Lesson Eight

Extrovert

The right circumstances transform the most diffident wallflowers into gyrating extroverts

is outgoing; one who is drawn by interaction with others to move

Lesson Eight

droll

The children dressed in their parent's business attire made a **droll** scene.

ing in an odd or whimsical
sympat

Lesson Eight

Duplicity

Determined to win her case with verbal tricks, the lawyer engaged in a rich variety of **duplicity**.

Verbal deceit in speech or
syn-deception
said forward

Lesson Eight

Effigy

Jerry acted out his aggressions by sticking
spiteful pins in aoodoo doll which was a
cartoonish **effigy** of his boss.

A summary or image of a
real person or thing

Lesson Eight

Austere

After financial negligence led him to bankruptcy, Money moved into an austere apartment and lived on beans and rice.

adj. stern; severe; plain

syn: strict; uncolorful

ant: indulgent; indulgent



Lesson Nin

Lesson Nine

emulate

To sell more books, the author tried to **emulate** a more popular writer's style.

to be equal to
synonym

Lesson Nine

sere

The last **sere** and withered leaf drifted down
at the end of fall.

adj. dry and withered

n. *deciduous* and

lush

Lesson Nine

Enhance

An ad always tries to **enhance** the value of a company's products and services.

to increase the value or beauty of

something

improve; heighten

de-

Lesson Nine

contrite

Selma became weepy and **contrite**, but only after she got caught.

regret for having committed
wrongdoing
penitent; remorseful
unrepentant

Lesson Nine

magnanimous

Even the most heavily endowed and **magnanimous** charities must set limits on the funds they can offer deserving groups.

generous in forgiving,
pretty feelings or a
synonymous

me

Lesson Nine

enunciate

Good and decisive leaders must **enunciate**

clearly so orders are understood and

obeyed.

enunciate clearly and distinctly

pronounce

enunciate

Lesson Nine

collaborate

Celebrities often **collaborate** with ghostwriters to produce their biographies, but the final products are seldom worth the time.

collaborate with another to work on a project together.
syn. cooperate

Lesson Nine

Impound

The grizzled old dogcatcher chased, after, captured, and **impounded** stray dogs for over 50 years.

fine; to retain in legal custody; to confiscate; to impound; to release

Lesson Nine

impeccable

When a high wind couldn't disturb her **impeccable**, heavily sprayed hair,

faultless, without sin or blemish,

late, faultless in her robes,

tribe, blameless,

Lesson Nine

Evokes

The British horse and buggy **evokes** a gentle, serene, reliable, and slowly vanishing era.

to summon forth
to bring up

Lesson Nine

Inane

The pundit's **inane** comments made it obvious that he knew little about the subject.

without sense or meaning

syn: foolish; insipid

ant: significant; meaningful

Lesson Nine

unctuous

Unctuous attendants were afraid to tell the king that he had no clothes.

generally or insincerely

syn: oily

ant: sincere; s

Lesson Nine

expatriate

The **expatriate** was born in America but lived on the island of Palau for more than half of his life.

who chooses to live on his or her own.

Lesson Nine

frowzy

Because he had fixed a flat tire in the rain,
Dan showed up to work looking frowzy.

and unkempt
slovenly
and tidy

Lesson Nine

Heinous

No matter how **heinous** the crime, the judge refused to recommend capital punishment for the killer.

stefung or shocking ly e
aberrant no



Lesson Ten

Lesson Ten

expound

The teacher asked Veronica if she would **expound** her sketchy answer.

to explain in detail; to clarify

synonyms elaborate

antonyms mumble; conceal

Lesson Ten

cajole

When management failed to browbeat the player into signing a contract, they tried to

cajole her.

He was swayed with false promises

and flattery.

cajole; coax; wheedle;

seduce; flatter;

Lesson Ten

inscrutable

Zen Buddhism is full of **inscrutable** sayings, including “listen to the sound of one hand clapping”

is easily understood; hard to
synonymistic
obscure; e

Lesson Ten

balk

Hearing the eerie screams of the mountain

lions, the male **balked** and refused to go any

farther.

to be stubbornly or abruptly

to start and refuse to go on

hesitate; balk

com

Lesson Ten

dour

The **dour** old sourpuss skulked around the neighborhood for years until he bought a plush condominium and moved to Florida.

li stem and II-hu core

syn forbidding

nt, casa

Lesson Ten

exult

Terrill **exulted** in his touchdown catch with a victory dance in the end zone.

He rejoiced to feel triumph
and celebrate.

Lesson Ten

omniscient

The **omniscient** judge seemed to know every legal precedent.

limited knowledge

Lesson Ten

Feasible

The crook believed his strategy was **feasible** until the moment he felt the shock of an unseen bank guard's stun gun.

Feasible: capable of being done

Improbable: possible, plausible

Unworkable: not workable

Lesson Ten

fiasco

The family reunion turned into a **fiasco** when poor directions caused all the guests to get lost.

complete, ridiculous failure
syn. disaster
not successful

Lesson Ten

métier

The CEO's **métier** was turning around bankrupt companies and making them profitable.

It is especially quite special as an occupation.

syn: fortune teller
syn: kne

Lesson Ten

Fluctuate

“The **fluctuates** sometimes,” explained the meteorologist after he failed to predict a record snowfall.

to rise and fall; to vary irregularly

synonyms: waver; vacillate

antonyms: stabilize

Lesson Ten

harry

The professor **harrried** the students into hasty work and avoidable errors.

v. to annoy or harass

n. bother; pest

n. bother

Lesson Ten

Incognito

The prince sometimes wears a disguise, leaves the palace, and mingles among the population **incognito** to hear what people think of the royal family.

pretending not to be

Lesson Ten

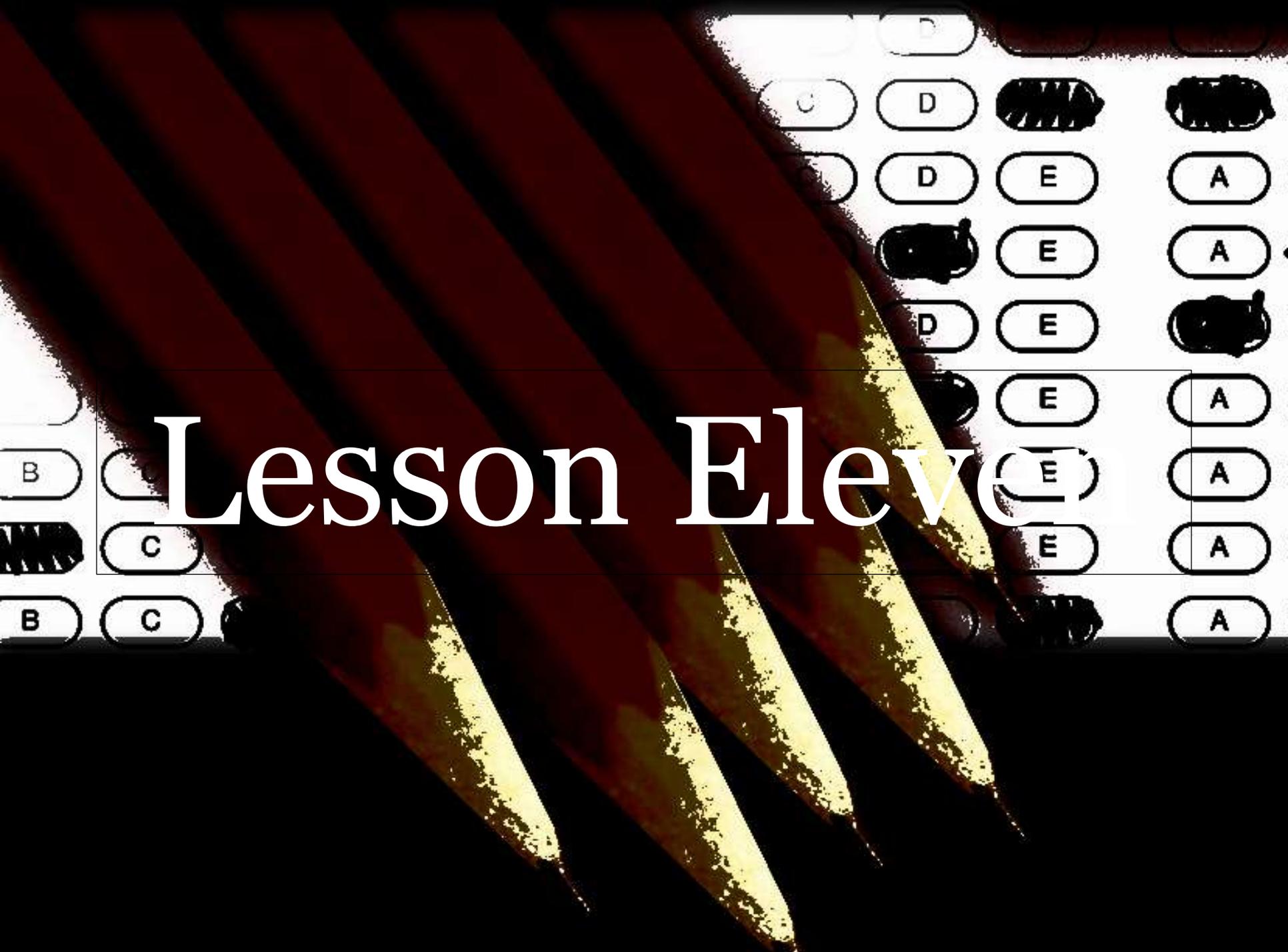
Lethargy

During the midnight shift, the sleepy cab driver cited **lethargy** as the reason he missed the turn for the airport.

lack of energy; sluggishness

to mor; la situ

vi



Lesson Eleven

Lesson Eleven

epistle

During his three-year prison sentence, Mike tried to maintain a presence among his family through a series of **epistles**.

literary composition
form

Lesson Eleven

avid

He **avid** for success. Richard became a professional boxer before he had enough amateur fights.

enthusiasic; extremely interested

voracious; eating

ent; rather

Lesson Eleven

gadfly

By asking the wrong people embarrassing questions, Socrates made himself the gadfly of Athens.

...ating and persistent p
... nuisance ne

Lesson Eleven

Humility

Learning a lesson in **humility** gave the arrogant lawyer a more sympathetic perspective on his clients.

absence of vanity; humble

syn. modesty

ant. arrogance

Lesson Eleven

dolorous

So **dolorous** was the weepy movie that the entire audience received tissues before entering the theater.

exhibiting sorrow or pain
synonymous
can you

Lesson Eleven

gargantuan

A host of **gargantuan** ants, turned by atomic bombs into giant killing machines, threatens the town of Black Rock.

or extraordinary size and

syn: gigantic, huge

ant: tiny

Lesson Eleven

Arduous

When instructions tell you that assembling a table is easy, be ready for a long and **arduous** task.

... difficulty, requiring much effort
arduous; laborious
... easy, *unchallenging*

Lesson Eleven

affable

The **affable** smiley salesman said he never had a bad day in his life.

ably; agreeable; easy to

manage; good nature

agreeable,

Lesson Eleven

grandiloquent

Abraham Lincoln avoided grandiloquent presentations and spent hours preparing them to be simple, direct, and eloquent.

pretentious or high-flown in style
syn. pretentious
syn. pompous

Lesson Eleven

Agrarian

To keep farmers from going out of business during hard times, the U.S. government provides agrarian subsidies.

owning farms, farmers, or land

in: agriculture

indu

Lesson Eleven

grimace

The gymnast **grimaced** in pain as he fell
between the parallel bars.

expression of fear, disa

pain

sy score

mile

Lesson Eleven

Harangue

Sometimes, a short-and-sweet warning
trumps a windy **harangue**

strongly expressed speech
a picture
a tirade

Lesson Eleven

formidable

Goliath was massive and **formidable**, but David was smart and well-armed.

arousing fear of awe
n: *timidness*

Lesson Eleven

sycophant

A bunch of **sycophants** worked their way into the celebrity's entourage, telling her only what she wanted to hear.

flatterer; one who fawns on
in order to gain favor

sycophant

flatterer

Lesson Eleven

explicit

If you spot Fast Eddie, the pickpocket, give him **explicit** directions to the nearest police station.

clearly and openly stated;
depending on the imagination
of the speaker: exact; precise

us;



Lesson Twelve

Lesson Twelve

altercation

Over the years, Jay's Pub grew famous for closing-time **altercations** and 9-1-1 calls.

altercation, a heated argument

synonyms: quarrel; dispute

antonyms: agreement; reconciliation

Lesson Twelve

Lexicon

Parrotting the street **lexicon** he just heard,

Ray declared he would be giving a **shout-out**

to his homies.

Lexicon, a specialized vocabulary,

in a particular field of study.

Ray's *argot*

Lesson Twelve

hue

An inspired painter can reveal the hues and shades of twilight.

ular shade of a green

Lesson Twelve

galvanize

Since the average voter turnout in the U.S. is about 50%, political parties spend millions trying to **galvanize** the no-shows into voting mode.

startle into sudden action

stimulate

galvanize

Lesson Twelve

Sanction

The sergeant failed to recognize and correct the bad behavior and thus appeared to **sanction** it.

permission; up

Lesson Twelve

Hyperbole

“That desert is to die for,” said Francesca,
speaking in **hyperbole**, which no one took
literally.

Exaggeration for effect
not to be taken literally
in *as state*

Lesson Twelve

Ominous

The professor threatened a pop quiz in **ominous** tones.

threatening; foreboding

syn: sinister

ant: confident

Lesson Twelve

Audacity

When circumstances called for courage,
Shelley added a little **audacity** to her attitude.

rude boldness; nerve

insolence; impudence

contempt; coru

Lesson Twelve

evince

René **evinced** a knowledge of French by speaking fluently to a waiter in the Paris café.

demonstrate clearly to prove
synonymous

Lesson Twelve

implacable

As a determined foe, the **implacable** detective never gave up his search for the kidnapper.

able to be appeased or pacified; inflexible; relentless; unrelenting; as

Lesson Twelve

exhort

Man **exhorted** her teammates to play harder and then led by example.

urge on with stirring words
vn. encourage

Lesson Twelve

incarcerate

On her José **incarcerated** the shoplifter but reminded the judge that it was the boy's first offense.

put into prison; to confine; to imprison; to incarcerate; to incarcerate;

Lesson Twelve

The Incisive

The **incisive** engineer had a way of seeing past the symptoms and identifying the source of the problem.

He was keen, cutting straight to the heart of the matter. He was precise, producing, not producing. He was a professional.

Lesson Twelve

expedient

Too often, the official emphasized **expedient** action over ethical results.

ad hoc practical providing an immediate solution (especially when serving self-interest)
own effectiveness
rules

Lesson Twelve

pertinent

For once, George kept his advice **pertinent**, without descending into irrelevant, **shaggy** dog stories.

to do with the subject
relevant
related: ex



Lesson Thirteen

Lesson Thirteen

inert

The sheriff stepped over the **inert** body of the victim.

to act or move; inactive

dominant; passive

dynamic; static

Lesson Thirteen

circumvent

Invasive demagogues know how to
circumvent the rules of a civilized society.

get around, to bypass
sympathize

Lesson Thirteen

clandestine

The **clandestine** meeting of the city council

violated the city's Sunshine Act, which

mandates meetings be open to the public.

adj. secret

syn: covert; arti

see above

Lesson Thirteen

acquitted

Since 1972, DNA tests have helped to **acquitt** more than 80 wrongly convicted prisoners in the U.S.

not guilty of a fault or
system *absolve*
and *convict*

Lesson Thirteen

deprecate

Alonzo **deprecated** the relentless use of advertising that encourages people to waste their money on long-shot lotteries.

to express strong disapproval
syn: deplore
opp: approve; praise

Lesson Thirteen

Barrister

In England, a **barrister** tries a case but does not handle its preparation.

lawyer (British)

Lesson Thirteen

adulation

Too much **adulation**

convinces some celebrities that they are
experts in areas where they know nothing

excessive praise or admiration

flattery; adoration

flattery; adoration

Lesson Thirteen

Culinary

Famous for his **culinary** expertise, the chef
panicked when his soufflé collapsed.

What do you do with the rest of the soufflé?

Lesson Thirteen

bawdy

The low budget horror films were so **bawdy** that mainstream theaters refused to show them for fear of offending the audience.

decent, humorous, obscene

syn: risqué, lewd

syn: indecent;

Lesson Thirteen

chastise

The drill instructor **chastised** the entire platoon when a single recruit got caught with a jelly donut.

to punish severely
syn. discipline

Lesson Thirteen

Jocose

Right after 9/11, comedians found it difficult to be **jocose**.

adj. joking; humorous
adv. *funny; playfully*
adj. *serious*

Lesson Thirteen

myriad

Charilyn envisioned a **myriad** of ways to express her love, but the overabundance of

choices confused her.

n. a very large number

too numerous to be counted

(a) *synonym*; multiple

(b) *less numerous*; a few

(c) *confused*

Lesson Thirteen

latent

The fitness guru brought out the **latent** bodybuilder in Samson, who had never before exceeded his weight of ninety pounds.

present, but not active; hidden

syn. dormant

ant. manifest

Lesson Thirteen

pernicious

Pernicious anemia is a blood disease that is successfully treated with lifelong injections of vitamins.

adj. destructive; dreadfully
adj. malignant, harmful
adj. benign

Lesson Thirteen

frugal

The miser claimed to be **frugal**, but not cheap.

economical in money

syn. economical

frugal; prudent



Lesson Fourteen

Lesson Fourteen

levity

Brittney indulged in **levity**, even when
seriousness was required.

lightness of disposition; la-

seriousness

syn. frivolous

com.

Lesson Fourteen

hoax

The radio program announced that Martians had landed in New Jersey, but it turned out to be a **hoax**.

practical joke; a trick
own; aud; like

Lesson Fourteen

amicable

The diplomat uttered **amicable** phrases in public, but behind the scenes he was preparing for war.

adj. friendly; peaceable

syn. agreeable, amiable

ant. hostile

Lesson Fourteen

obstreperous

Taking over the playing field, obstreperous fans tore up the turf and pulled down the goal posts.

obstreperous
stubbornly
defiantly
menacingly

Lesson Fourteen

enraptured

Stuck deeply into his couch, completely at peace, Eric let himself become enraptured by the Haydn symphony.

enlightened beyond measure
symphonies

Lesson Fourteen

Marital

Russell's **marital** troubles originated with his unchecked drinking and gambling, neither of which his wife condoned.

Having to do with marriage
syn. wedded
an. single

Lesson Fourteen

basked

At last, exams were over, and Monica basked in the warm glow of success.

one self to learn

Lesson Fourteen

genial

A **genial** hostess happily anticipates his or her guests' every need.

adj. friendly, amiable

syn: cordial

ant: unfriendly

Lesson Fourteen

Charlatan

The phrenologist was a jaunty **charlatan**, claiming to know the subject's personality from the bumps on his head.

He pretends to have knowledge in order to swindle others.

Mean: a fake; a fraud

Example

Lesson Fourteen

mundane

Under the hands of a skilled horror-movie director, **mundane** events abruptly morph into unexpected fright shows.

unplace; earthly and not

syn: boring

ant: unique

Lesson Fourteen

fickle

“I am not **fickle**—just picky,” explained Vera, as she dumped her second boyfriend in as many weeks.

to change on a whim of
apparent reason
capitulating; over-
indulgent; indulgent

Lesson Fourteen

juggernaut

They were merely helpless victims, crushed
under the weight of the unstoppable

juggernaut.

destructive or irresistible

Lesson Fourteen

naïve

The stock market, with its dangers of sudden loss, is no place for **naïve** amateurs.

... people in outlook; not affe
... ally; especially in cen
... hisitated, ans
... ed,

Lesson Fourteen

Nocturnal

If you dislike moths and other large flying insects, be grateful for the nightjar, a **nocturnal** bird that feasts on them.

What to do with the nightjar

at night

and diurnal

Lesson Fourteen

novice

A sensitive and knowledgeable mentor can provide a **novice** with insight and inspiration.

...ner; one who is inexperienced

...n: *apprentice*; *ty*

...an *master*



Lesson Fifteen

Lesson Fifteen

noxious

The common garden toad is an uncommon
destroyer of **noxious** insects.

Bombina orientalis. harmful to the health

syn. *injuriosus*

ant. *terribilis*

Lesson Fifteen

connive

The politician **connived** with a computer geek to hack into an electronic voting machine and alter the count.

operate secretly in a long
conspiracy

Lesson Fifteen

chutzpah

In demonstration of **chutzpah**, the man
bumped into the front of the long line.

n. nerve; audacity;
brazenness; effrontery;
audacity; audacity

Lesson Fifteen

liege

Over the years, Robin Hood had developed a major attitude toward his haughty liege, King John.

lord, master, or sovereign

syn: king

syn: overlord;

Lesson Fifteen

odium

At the party, Ron and Kendra looked at each other in icy silence, their **odium** all too obvious.

- a. hatred
- b. *syn.* abhorrence
- c. loathing

Lesson Fifteen

crass

His **crass** behavior kept John from advancing
in the company.

adj. coarse; tasteless

syn: crude

ant: refine

Lesson Fifteen

hypercritical

So **hypercritical** was the connoisseur that she acted as if nothing could please her.

critical too severe in judgment

syn. faultfinding

ant. lax

Lesson Fifteen

complacent

The center got **complacent**, got fat, and, consequently, got thrown off the team.

adj. self-satisfied; snug
confident; assured; confident
and dumb.

Lesson Fifteen

befuddle

Little Zoie liked to **befuddle** herself, spinning around like a top and falling over the dog in the family room.

to confuse; to perplex

syn: bewilder, fluster

ant: elude

Lesson Fifteen

pandemonium

The referee penalized the home team, and **pandemonium** broke out in the stands.

disorder, noise, confusion

chaos; tumult, commotion

confusion; commotion

Lesson Fifteen

parsimonious

The children gave their **parsimonious** father
a lump of coal for Christmas.

excessively thrifty; stingy

syn: cheap; niggardly

ant: extravagant

Lesson Fifteen

verbose

In the Department of Redundancy

Department management always rewards

verbose employees

using more words than are

wordy

synonyms

use,

Lesson Fifteen

laudable

The mayor honored **laudable** efforts, but never falsely praised half-hearted ones.

worthy of praise: commendable

syn: admirable

ant: desecrate

Lesson Fifteen

indiscreet

Temperamental Griseida often rewarded
indiscreet remarks with a fist to the nose.

indiscreet: unwise or judicious; imprudent

indiscreet: speech or action

synonyms: flagrant

den



Lesson Sixte

Lesson Sixteen

to pique

Out-of-state lottery winners always **piqued** the local players.

to use resentment; to provoke

syn: irritate

ant: suagate

Lesson Sixteen

Linguistics

Simply by hearing you speak, the linguistics expert can tell not only which state you're from, but also which part of the state.

The scientific study of the structure and meaning of language.

Lesson Sixteen

plebeian

In ancient Rome, the patrician class lorded over the lower ranks of **plebeians**.

plebeian (noun) one from the low

plebeian (adjective) common or vulgar

plebeian (noun) peasant, laborer

plebeian (adjective) rustic

Lesson Sixteen

precocious

So **precocious** was Elvira that she attended college at the age of ten.

...ing early development, e...
...mental...
...n. Advanced

Lesson Sixteen

predatory

Famous for their **predatory** instincts, eagles have been known to swoop down and carry off deer in their talons.

inclined to prey on other
pillaging; aspe
ent; return

Lesson Sixteen

prohess

The college was criticized for honoring athletic **prohess** more than academic excellence.

superior skill or ability
strength, dominance, etc.
weakness

Lesson Sixteen

pugnacious

When angered, the meek accountant turned
into a **pugnacious** avenger.

and ready to fight quarrelsome

combative; belligerent

quarrelsome; pugnacious

Lesson Sixteen

Purloin

After navigating the museum's laser, infrared, and microwave detection alarms, the master thief **purloined** the ancient statuette.

to steal
own. *burglar*

Lesson Sixteen

pusillanimous

The **pusillanimous** explorer left his wounded friend on the mountain and spent the night at a Swiss chalet.

adj. cowardly; fearful

syn. fanthearted; timorous

ant. brave; bold

Lesson Sixteen

quell

Two showhands were not enough to quell the
carnal stampede through the strip mall.

to bring to an end to; to allay or

syn: calm

for want; in vain

Lesson Sixteen

quixotic

Success often starts with **quixotic** dreams.

realistic, impractical, ca

romantic notion

analysis; pr

Lesson Sixteen

rabble

One gunshot transformed the quiet crowd
into a dangerous **rabble**.

disorderly crowd, mob
synonym: ruffian

Lesson Sixteen

rabid

The vigilante didn't end his **rabid** trail of vengeance until he had dispatched all the criminals responsible for the death of his family.

adj. raging; fanatical
adj. uncontrollable; hectic
adj. implacable

Lesson Sixteen

raconteur

Sitting by the campfire, the raconteur held his audience spellbound with his repertoire of ghost stories.

He smiled at all of them.

Lesson Sixteen

vindictive

Known for her **vindictive** tendencies, Joanne never got mad when getting even was better.

Having revenge, bearing a
synonym: *vengful*
antonym: *forgiving*

The image features a dark background with several yellow pencils pointing downwards from the top. The pencils are arranged in a fan-like pattern. In the background, there is a grid of small, rounded rectangular buttons, some containing letters like 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', and 'A'. The text 'Lesson Seventeen' is centered in a white, serif font.

Lesson Seventeen

Lesson Seventeen

circumspect

After two hours of **circumspect** bargaining, the trader received permission from the native chieftain to pass through the region.

heedful; attentive to

judicious, prudent

crafty, shrewd

Lesson Seventeen

zephyr

Finally, the gale subsided, and a comforting
zephyr gently touched our faces.

breeze (sometimes specifically
the West Wind),
a gale

Lesson Seventeen

renegade

The soldiers became **renegades** when they decided to steal the gold their platoon had been ordered to protect.

Who deserts one side in
for another: traitor; outlaw;
turncoat; *defector*
renegade; *malis*

Lesson Seventeen

retribution

Knowing that **retribution** on behalf of the victim's family was possible, the police were forced to keep the suspect in protective custody until his arraignment.

Nothing justly deserved, especially

punishment

sympreprise

ward

Lesson Seventeen

hurtle

The giant boulder **hurtled** down the slope, threatening the lives of the mountain climbers.

or to **hurtle** swiftly and with force
s **hurled**

Lesson Seventeen

Scourge

World War One grew into a global scourge, claiming ten million lives over four years of futile trench fighting.

Nothing or thing that causes great
or misfortune
armistice; ban;
ambles

Lesson Seventeen

caustic

After a lifetime of making **caustic** remarks,

Sally transformed herself into a kinder,

gentler friend.

caustic: stingingly sharp or s

caustic: scalding; sarcastic

caustic: ple

Lesson Seventeen

taciturn

The **taciturn** monk rarely spoke, but he spoke with eloquence when he did.

fond of talking; usually

recluse; reserved

quac

Lesson Seventeen

Agnostic

Unable to believe that the universe simply began spontaneously, the agnostic refused to reject the possibility that God exists.

Who believes that the existence of God can neither be proved nor disproved?
skeptical
believer

Lesson Seventeen

terse

At his press conferences, the football coach uttered a series of **terse** statements that explained nothing.

li. brief and to the point

ii. abbreviated; condensed

iii. concise; rare

Lesson Seventeen

uncanny

On the horizon Selma saw an **uncanny** cluster of glowing spheres.

They were so strange; so keenly real
that they seem bizarre
and superstitious.

Lesson Seventeen

Exodus

The famous Old Testament **exodus** saw
Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in
Egypt to the Promised Land.

Exodus is the departure or emigration
and return.

Lesson Seventeen

penitent

Some convicts get all **penitent** and teary just before their parole board hearings.

penitent; sorry; regretful; sorry for having done

penitence; *syn: apologetic*

penitential; *syn: penitence*

Lesson Seventeen

vindicate

"History will **vindicate** me," said the
desperate dictator.

of suspicion or excuse

exonerate; acquit

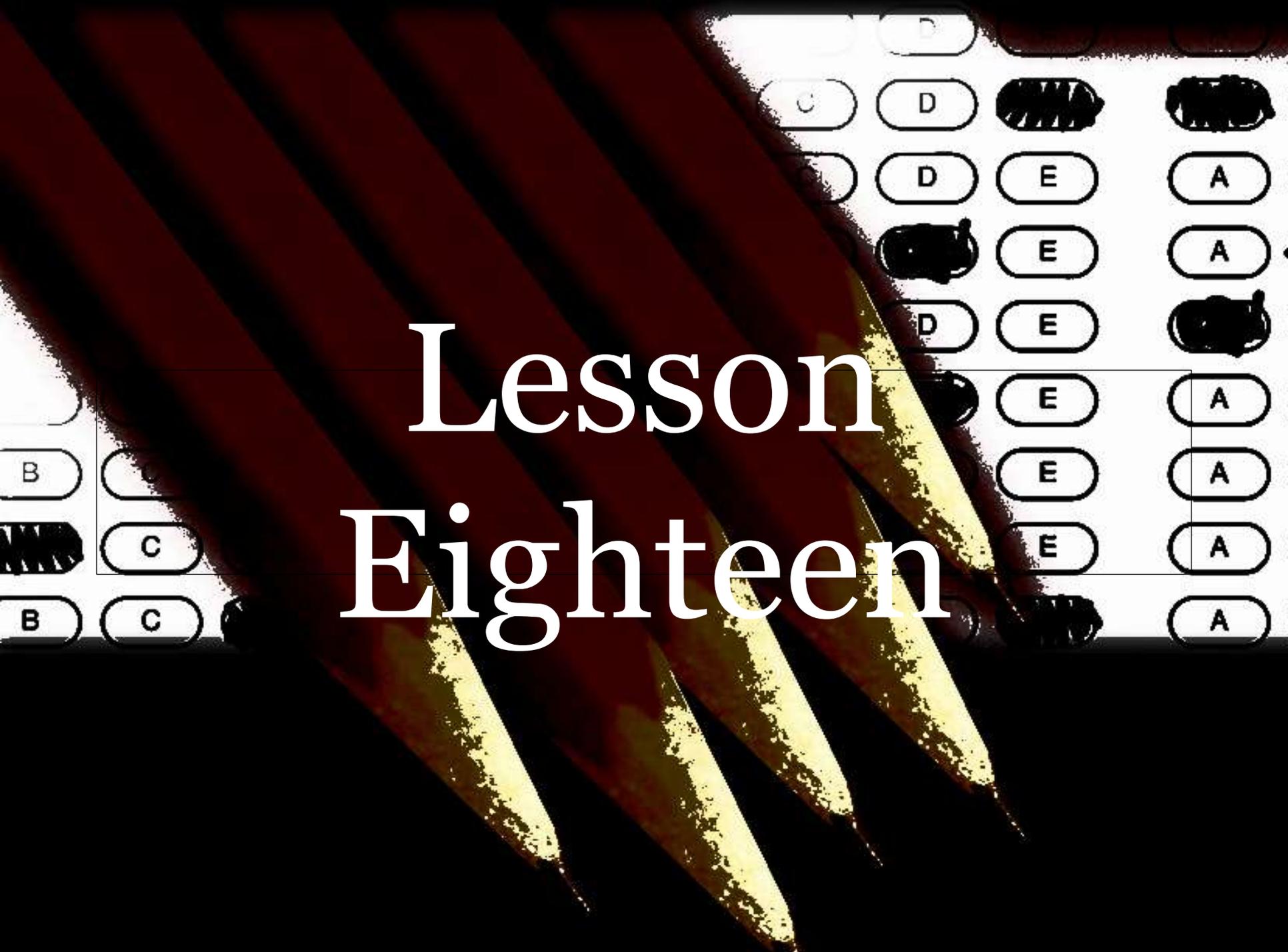
staunch; in

Lesson Seventeen

raillery

When pleasant **raillery** became angry heckling, the comedian abruptly left the stage.

humored ridicule or te
symbant

The background of the slide features a dark, textured surface with several yellow pencils lying diagonally across it. The pencils are sharpened and appear to be resting on a surface. In the upper right corner, there is a grid of small, white, rounded rectangular buttons, some of which contain the letters 'C', 'D', 'E', and 'A'.

Lesson Eighteen

Lesson Eighteen

impregnable

Experts thought the hull of the Titanic was

impregnable until an iceberg tore holes in it

and sank the ship in the North Atlantic.

... to be conquered, imp

... syn. unbearable

...: genera

Lesson Eighteen

xenophobia

He attributed his unwillingness to meet new people to a mild case of **xenophobia**.

the dislike or fear of strangers
foreigners

Lesson Eighteen

inherent

The defects were **inherent** in the design of the building, and, to almost no one's surprise, it finally collapsed.

and essential
syn *intrinsic*
primarily ex

Lesson Eighteen

Irreverent

The writer's **irreverent** criticism drew the ire of the king, and resulted in her imprisonment.

adj. disrespectful

syn: disrespectful

ant: respect

Lesson Eighteen

expedite

Election workers hoped the new electronic

voting machines would expedite the

tabulation of results.

increase the rate of prog

hurry, hasten, str

reared; h

Lesson Eighteen

pristine

Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands and was astonished at their **pristine** flora and fauna, which had been largely untouched by man.

pure; completely clean
undisturbed; uncontaminated

syn: pure
syn: spoiled

Lesson Eighteen

pithy

Harold's **pithy** goodbye speech took only a minute, but brought his guests to tears.

full of meaning; concise

syn succinct

ant carbo

Lesson Eighteen

invective

The strange meeting began with deafening
invective and ended in embarrassed silence.

insult or abuse in speech

synonym reproach

antonym praise

Lesson Eighteen

prodigal

Overcoming his own bitter feelings, the father welcomed the **prodigal** son home.

careless, wasteful and extravagant

prodigal: wastrel; rhymer

prodigal: prodigal

Lesson Eighteen

pliable

The general looked tough and unyielding, but he used **pliable** strategies to achieve great success on the battlefield.

easily bent or flexible
and rigid

Lesson Eighteen

torpid

While some creatures grow **torpid** in winter, snow peas jump wildly about on snow during warm winter days.

torpid: motionless, feeling, or powerless; lacking energy

paralytic; in the

torge

Lesson Eighteen

tenuous

So dramatic was the speaker's presentation that almost no one noticed how tenuous it was.

not dense or thick; having little substance
unconvincing

co

Lesson Eighteen

discordant

The little girl clapped her hands over her ears

when she heard her parents' discordant

arguing.

being in disagreement

syn: conflicting

ant: harmonious

The background of the slide features a dark, textured surface with several yellow pencils lying diagonally across it. The pencils are sharpened and appear to be resting on a surface. The overall aesthetic is educational and artistic.

Lesson Nineteen

Lesson Nineteen

mellifluous

Janet's **mellifluous** tones flowed like honey
and soothed John's bruised ego.

... a rich, smoothly flowing

syn. harmonious

ant. discordant

Lesson Nineteen

epicurean

Certain **epicurean** diners don't just eat to live
—they live to eat.

in pleasure in food and
hedonistic; not

Lesson Nineteen

Lexicon

Emmé's latest novel does justice to the excellence of her extensive **lexicon**.

complete work of an artist, c

write

synonym

Lesson Nineteen

Arbiter

Because he was unbiased, Milton acquired the role of **arbiter** during discussions of good and bad taste among his coworkers.

Someone with the ability to resolve a disagreement; an arbitrator

Lesson Nineteen

verdant

Striding dreamily through a **verdant** woods, the hiker failed to see the bear trap waiting to snap him back to reality.

and green, referring to

san: lus

ant: d; se

Lesson Nineteen

vagary

Mathematicians have little tolerance for **vagaries** in their exact science of numbers.

predictable action of beh

on: *vagim; cavi*

Lesson Nineteen

vacuous

The explosion was the result of a **vacuous** soldier who had used a torch to illuminate the interior of the gunpowder magazine.

adj. lacking intelligence

syn: empty-headed

ant: brilliant; smart

Lesson Nineteen

Attrition

In the war of **attrition**, each side tried to wear the other out with constant volleys of artillery shells.

wearing down over time
systemic erosion
grinding down: attrition

Lesson Nineteen

archetype

The first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary became the **archetype** of lexicographical scholarship.

prototype or original model

syn: model

ant: reprodu

Lesson Nineteen

approbation

After facing hypercritical colleagues, the scientist writer had to seek the approbation of her boss's wife.

formal approval or an award

syn: authorization

syn: approval; opinion

Lesson Nineteen

burgeon

Man hit the lottery, and then the number of
his needy relatives began to **burgeon**.

grow, expand, o'blow

swell

diminish

Lesson Nineteen

commensurate

Eric deserved a small round of applause **commensurate** with his tiny talent.

equal measure; corresponding

and measurement

equivalent; comparable

equally

Lesson Nineteen

confluence

The city was an ancient **confluence** of several cultures, and its language comprised elements from each of the groups who lived there.

meeting or gathering together

convergence, confluence

to converge

Lesson Nineteen

coup

The producer's theatrical **coup** defied trends in show business, yet boasted record box office office hits.

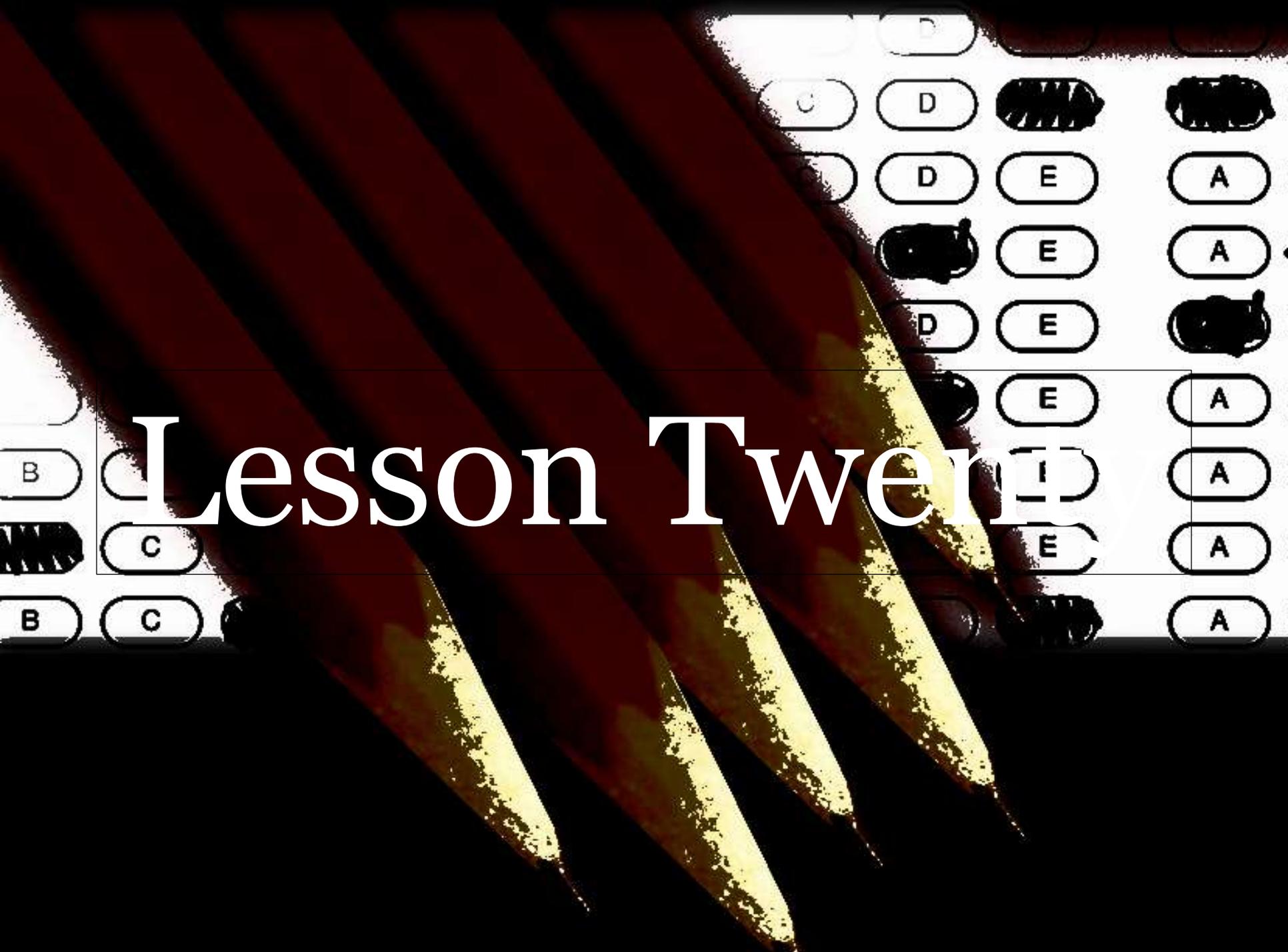
surprising, brilliant, and un-
successful
splot

Lesson Nineteen

secular

Abandoning spiritual values, the worldly society celebrated **secular** pleasures.

spiritual or religious; worldly
system: earthly
not religious



Lesson Twenty

Lesson Twenty

insouciant

No matter how serious the situation, Rebecca remained her **insouciant** demeanor.

not concerned; free from

syn. nonchalant

syn. unbothered

Lesson Twenty

static

The government's **static** policy had no provision for the latest unforeseen disaster.

static: without force or movement; s

static: *immobility in*

static: *immobility in*

Lesson Twenty

stipulate

The insurance company **stipulated** a date of payment and a price which left Kermit in a state of denial.

a required part of an agreement
synonym

Lesson Twenty

Zeitgeist

Reflecting the **zeitgeist** of the 1980s, the Wall Street Journal declared that greed was good.

General spirit of a time

Lesson Twenty

proliferate

Rats **proliferated** in the city so much that they chased the cats away.

grow or reproduce rapidly

syn multiply

ant diminish

Lesson Twenty

tenet

When the public ceased to approve of his **tenets**, the politician abandoned them.

of or principle held to be
cornerstone

Lesson Twenty

ruminate

Joe **ruminated** on his decision for years, never completely sure that he had chosen the right path.

to think deeply or repeatedly about something; ponder; mull

Lesson Twenty

vigilant

The **vigilant** sentry turned his spotlight on
when he heard crackling leaves on the other
side of the perimeter fence.

Be alert at all times; watch

syn: alert

ant: livio

Lesson Twenty

Dissident

The single **dissident** who objected to the new walking trail claimed the path would detract from the park's natural surroundings.

someone who disagrees

syn: renegade

ant: supporter

Lesson Twenty

petulant

Monica stamped her foot and stormed off in a **petulant** snit.

in speech or behavior;

Latin: contemptus

and origin

Lesson Twenty

derivative

Critics asserted that the core concept in his essay was merely a **derivative** from a far superior, earlier writer.

original; coming from
source
offspring; derivative

Lesson Twenty

accolade

Accolades

drifted down like falling blossoms
on the blushing hero.

n. an award or honor
by *knights*; recognition
of *robust*

Lesson Twenty

demur

Even though his friends pressed him to go to the ball, Colton **demurred** and returned to his homework.

to approve or to take exception

Latin: *object*; drag

Latin: *argere* acquiesce

Lesson Twenty

limpid

The **limpid** lake waters provided a stark contrast to the turbid drainage pond behind his house.

li. transparent; clear
an. murk

Lesson Twenty

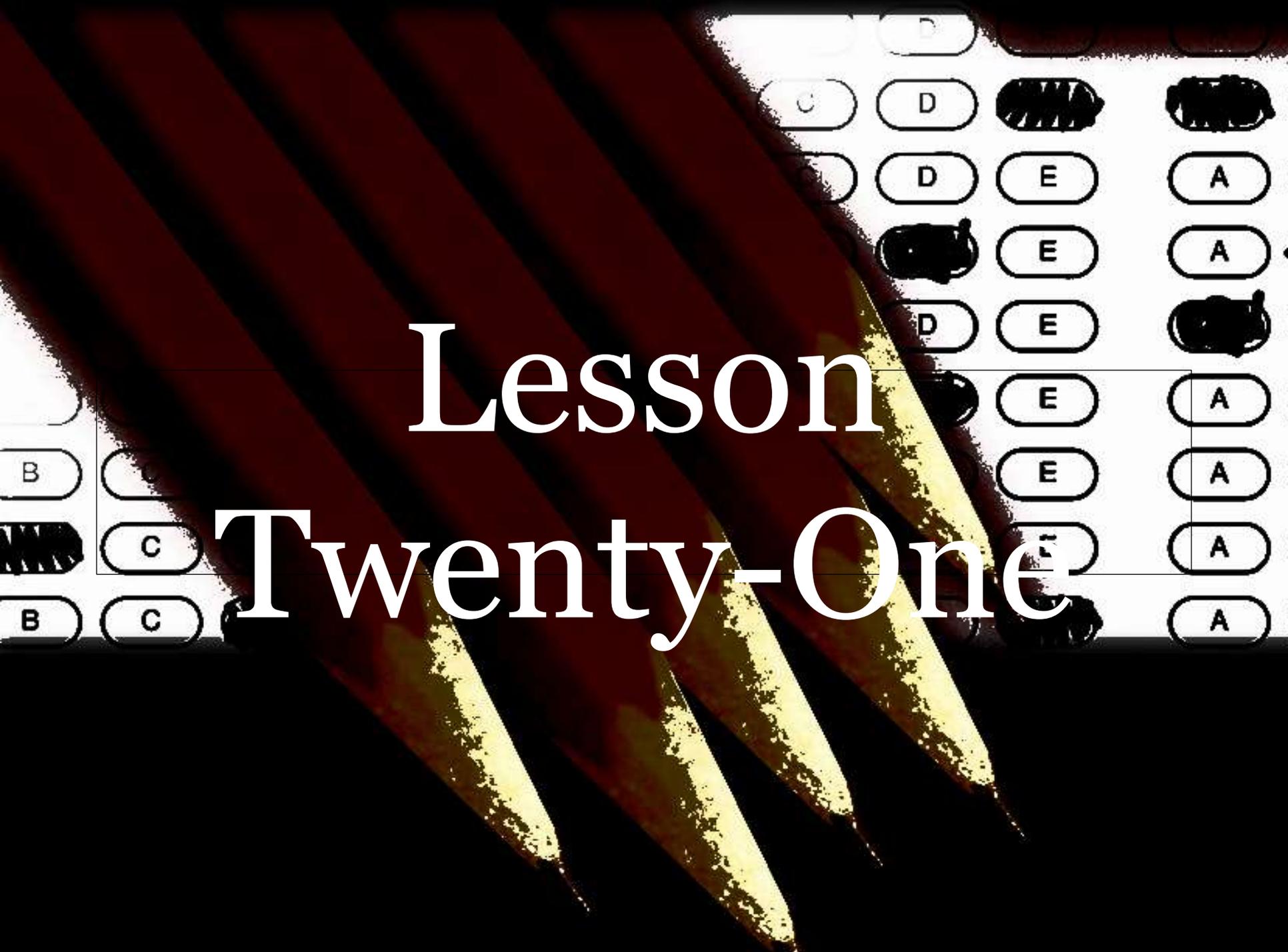
invidious

The corrupt senator repeatedly made **invidious** comparisons between his own record and that of his opponent.

...ing to cause discontent,
...tment offensive inf...

syn. malicious

ant. amicable



Lesson
Twenty-One

Lesson Twenty-One

August

Though German bombing shattered buildings around it, London's August St. Paul's Cathedral survived.

marked by grandeur and
regal; magnificent
splendid; magnificent

Lesson Twenty-One

Ancillary

Helene excelled at delegating ancillary people to do the heavy lifting for her.

Ancillary providing

Lesson Twenty-One

semblance

Years passed and the aging athlete's performance became a **semblance** of its former self.

likeness in form or appearance
: *similarity* so

Lesson Twenty-One

autodidact

Like some **autodidacts**, Ivan acquired profound knowledge in odd areas like water taxi driving and rope dancing.

a self-taught person
syn. self-made

Lesson Twenty-One

asinine

For a while Kyle seemed normal until he exploded into a fit of **asinine** behavior.

Meaning: poor judgment or in

English: foolish; poor

Latin: asinus

Lesson Twenty-One

albeit

Sandi won the match, **albeit** in the face of
cheering accusations by her opponent.

although; even though

Lesson Twenty-One

Conduit

The waterfront bar became a **conduit** for drug trafficking and weapons smuggling.

Means by which something is transmitted
channel

Lesson Twenty-One

philatelist

Every serious **philatelist** knows the first two
United States stamps were issued in 1847.

who collects stamps

Lesson Twenty-One

indefatigable

The **indefatigable** boxer wore down his opponent and finally won the fight.

indefatigable: incapable of being tired
ant. exhausted

Lesson Twenty-One

martyr

Whenever Mrs. Kelley confronted her son
with chores, he assumed the look of a
suffering martyr.

suffer for sacrifice

Lesson Twenty-One

indiscretion

Sam forgave others' **indiscretions** as long as they didn't affect him.

n. a minor misdeed

caedo; trans.

Lesson Twenty-One

Osmosis

Most people adopt rules of etiquette through
a kind of cultural **osmosis**

often unconscious process
absorption

Lesson Twenty-One

picayune

John focused on important matters, ignored the **picayune**, and thus accelerated his advancement in life.

of very little value; trivial;
worthless; chaff; trifling; unimportant; unvaluable

Lesson Twenty-One

credit dossier

When considering someone for a loan, successful banks look carefully at the applicant's credit **dossier**.

detailed information on
of subject
by record

Lesson Twenty-One

behest

For making his usual flippant attitude, Private Rippe took General Turgidson's **behest** very seriously.

command or urgent request
syn. demand