



Introduction to Vocabulary Words

BOOK THREE

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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
in which the word might be used.
Then, infer the definition of the word
by studying its context.

Introduction

A second click provides the definition of the word.



Lesson One

Lesson One

Factionous

The **factious** political parties degenerated into quarreling splinter groups.

*causing disagreement;
belligerent; contentious;
combative, quarrelsome*

Lesson One

Ignoble

The **ignoble** candidate ended his political career when, upon hearing a loud noise, he shielded himself behind a child.

disdishonorable; shameful

synonyms: despicable, base

antonyms: glorious

Lesson One

boor

"You are **boors** and churls," scolded the frustrated headmaster.

rude or impolite person

Syn: *buffoon, clown*

Ant: *sophisticated*

Lesson One

aegis

Lonnie the Lip squealed on the mob and is now hidden under the **aegis** of the witness protection program.

a shield; protection
syn: back

Lesson One

perspicacity

Endless questions during the press conference challenged the perspicacity of the CEO.

keenness of judgment

syn: perceptiveness

ant: stupidity; ignorance

Lesson One

fervent

After barely surviving three days lost in the mountains, Jim became a **fervent** supporter of wilderness survival programs.

*adj. eager; earnest
burning; passionate
enthusiastic*

Lesson One

rectify

Lyndon found it impossible to rectify the hopeless situation, so he resigned.

correct; to make right
ready; also

Lesson One

enervate

The relentless cold **enervated** Lina so completely that she just wanted to lie down and sleep in the snow.

to weaken
debilitate, exhaust
enervate: strengthen

Lesson One

Besiege

General Sun Tzu advised the young officer
“When you **besiege** your enemies, always
leave them an escape; otherwise, they’ll fight
to the death for their lives.”

Shi Jie, to surround

Lesson One

ephemeral

Since life is **ephemeral**, it should be lived to
the fullest every moment.

Living only a brief time, she
said: *transient, flee*
the world: *transient, flee*
the world: *transient, flee*

Lesson One

Altruism

From a narrow perspective, **altruism** can be called selfish when donors seek publicity for their giving.

Altruism is a concern for others; generosity is the opposite of selfishness; magnanimity is the opposite of selfishness;

Lesson One

carrion

After sitting on the road for two days, the deer had become **carrion** and only to the vultures was it fit to eat.

decaying flesh

Lesson One

erotic

Placed in public view, the **erotic** sculpture was sure to become an object of controversy

pertaining to sexuality

Lesson One

amorphous

The advertising agency takes an **amorphous** concept and transforms it into a real and powerful product.

...peles, formulas, ...

Lesson One

Opulent

The wealthy heir took **opulence** for granted and never learned how to support himself financially.

rich, luxurious : wealth



Lesson Two

Lesson Two

impotent

The bodybuilder felt **impotent** when he used his brain, not brawn.

powerless; lacking strength

ineffective, helpless

not: powerful

Lesson Two

antithesis

The skilled debater made an opponent's point appear to be the **antithesis** of what he meant.

- **antithesis** is the opposite; an opposite
- **synonym** converse
- **antonym** are the same

Lesson Two

maelstrom

Bubbling helplessly about, their rowboat
approached the raging **maelstrom**.

It was a whirl of turbulence agitated
by a wind behind.

Lesson Two

emendation

Meticulous authors obsess about mistakes and enjoy making **emendation** before their books are printed.

n. a correction
improvement; fine

Lesson Two

chagrin

Overcome by **chagrin**, Mortense blushed and backed out of the room.

embarrassment; a complete loss of courage

Lesson Two

bauble

Early in the morning, salespeople blanket TV, pushing the most ostentatious **baubles** imaginable.

showy but useless thing
syn. *trinket*

Lesson Two

diaphanous

Only certain audacious starlets have the nerve to wear **diaphanous** dresses for red carpet appearances.

adj. very sheer and light
transparent, mosquito net
and gauze

Lesson Two

Labyrinth

The minotaur, a half-man, half-bull creature, lurked within the winding passages of the **labyrinth**.

A complicated network of winding passages; a maze.

Lesson Two

gloat

The end caught an easy pass, made it look heroic, then **gloated** foolishly at the middle of the football field.

to look at or think about with satisfaction

gloat / gloʊ /; c

Lesson Two

impediment

Jealousy made Aaron an obvious **impediment** between his former girlfriend and the personal trainer.

a barrier; obstruction
obstacle; hindrance
aid

Lesson Two

bestial

He transformed the losing team into **bestial** rabble.

adj. savage; brutal
adj. brutish; vici-
adj. humane; cruel

Lesson Two

effete

A former United States Vice President called the median an “**effete** corps of impudent snobs.”

adj. worn out; barren

verb *caused; spent an estate*

vigor, vigo

Lesson Two

shard

The super villain threw a compact car through the plate glass window of the coffeehouse, sending **shards** flying in all directions.

n. a fragment

Lesson Two

bland

The critic listened to the tired, **bland** rhythms
of the band and declared the group “a
celebration of the mediocre.”

adj. mild; tasteless; dull
adj. smooth; agreeable
adj. boring; tiresome

Lesson Two

Nihilism

Novelist Victor Hugo said that nihilism has no substance because there is no such thing as nothingness: everything is something.

Rejection of established



Lesson Three

Lesson Three

pedestrian

Stan did all he could to hype the essay, but
he delivered only a **pedestrian** and
unsatisfying result.

adj. ordinary or dull
commonplace; mediocre
unimpressive; common

Lesson Three

Bona fide

Although the team put forth a **bona fide** effort, they suffered their eighth straight loss.

adj. in good faith
adj. legitimate, genuine
adj. innocent, unsuspecting

Lesson Three

adventitious

Adventitious nostalgia and patriotism have made the Gettysburg Address more famous than it was when Lincoln first gave it.

accidental; nonessential
syn. accidental

Lesson Three

fecund

Green's **fecund** imagination has produced many books that have brought critical and popular acclaim.

adj. fertile; productive

syn: *prolific*

ant: *sterile*

Lesson Three

deviate

He thought in a linear fashion, with no room
to **deviate**.

inside from a counter to
syn *digress*

Lesson Three

obfuscate

For a dedicated writer, it is a serious error to **obfuscate** not clarify, with language.

to confuse; to beilder

middle; obscur

elucidate

Lesson Three

Impale

Punji sticks are very sharp bamboo stakes placed in holes to **impale** unsuspecting soldiers.

Impaled with a sharp stake through the body

Lesson Three

extenuate

In **late** circumstances that **extenuate** a crime
may call for less punishment.

seriousness by providing
excuses

Lesson Three

parochial

Brent's **parochial** notions about art and history disappeared after he visited several museums.

- *parochial*: local; narrow; limited
- *provincial*; *narrow*
- *pariv*; *par*; *pariv*

Lesson Three

glower

Although he often seemed to **glower**, he
claimed to be smiling in his heart.

glower v. to stare angrily

glower n: frown; scowl

glower a: grin

Lesson Three

edify

Always **edify**, never stupefy, the veteran
teacher advised.

improve someone's skills

Lesson Three

ambiguous

The **ambiguous** orders misled the platoon
into a minefield.

more than one interpretation

clear, uncertain, or

equivocal; doubtful

Lesson Three

cataclysm

An island volcano, Krakatoa, exploded in a **cataclysm** that produced a tidal wave 120 feet high.

n. a violent change
or disaster; *castro* the
revolution; *triumph*; *triumph*

Lesson Three

Optimum

After tasting the bears' bowls of porridge, Goldilocks found one that was the optimum temperature.

It was just right; most favorable side.

Lesson Three

importune

Her friends seldom refused when Kim **importune** them for a ride to school.

ask persistently, beseech
verb: *appeal; beseech*



Lesson Four

Lesson Four

Celibate

When training, many boxers remain **celibate** to focus their attention and energies on the forthcoming fight.

Boxers are often kept from interacting with

Lesson Four

fortuitous

Fortuitous moments affect lives as certainly
as planned actions.

happening by chance or accident;
*accidental; unexpected;
unplanned; unexpected; unplanned*

Lesson Four

recapitulate

Arthur slept through class and hoped a friend would **recapitulate** the lecture accurately.

to summarize; to rephrase

Lesson Four

perfunctory

He was a **perfunctory** friend but an attentive husband.

without care; in a routine
perfunctory indifferent, offhanded
perfunctory diligent; attentive

Lesson Four

Baroque

With elaborate phrases and language, the author constructed a novel of **baroque** proportions.

adj. overly decorated
syn: ornate
ant: simple

Lesson Four

Hedonism

Mont abandoned himself to a life of self-indulgent **hedonism**.

...of pleasure, especially
the senses

$$p = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

**Complete failure; a total collapse;
unsustainability; catastrophes; the
inevitable success; triumph**

Lesson Four

quasi-

Aimee functioned as a **quasi**-director in the amateur theater group.

embodying; summing up

Lesson Four

besmirch

During a fight-club rumble, Sully fell into the gutter and **besmirched** his white tuxedo.

to make dirty; to stain

syn: *sully*, *smear*

ant: *cleans*

Lesson Four

imperative

The squad leader's rising voice conveyed an absolute, **imperative** urgency.

...necessary vitality in

Lesson Four

sacrosanct

The magazine asserted that no topic or person would be **sacrosanct** or ruled out as a subject for satire.

adj. extremely holy
adv. *online*; *anytime*

Lesson Four

Sadistic

The constitution exists, in part, to keep dictators or kings from performing sadistic acts against citizens.

Deriving pleasure from inflicting pain on others.

Barbarous; cruel

inhuman

Lesson Four

demeanor

Project a calm **demeanor**, and never let them see you sweat.

manner of conducting
syn: deportment

Lesson Four

Facetious

With **facetious** intent, the professor asked the yawning student if he would like to take a nap before the exam began.

comical; jocular; playful

joking; witty; jokey

irony; sarcasm



Lesson Five

Lesson Five

fop

The pretentious **fop** brought three suitcases full of clothes for a simple overnight business trip.

Excessively fashion-conscious
syndandy

Lesson Five

imprecation

Standing sternly in the pulpit, the preacher
thundered **imprecations** at the stunned
congregation.

... a curse
of *condemnation* and
of *imprecation*

Lesson Five

non sequitur

The professor of logic detested false conclusions and therefore banned **non sequiturs** from her classroom.

that does not logically follow
fallacy, misc

Lesson Five

sanguine

Arlene's perpetually **sanguine** outlook made some people wonder if she lived in the real world.

cheerful; optimistic

Lesson Five

bowdlerize

After Mr. Thomas Bowdler expurgated Shakespeare, many angry critics began asserting that to censor a book is to **bowdlerize** it.

After the offensive passages were removed from the novel, even the most prudish reviewer *praised* the *censored* edition.

Lesson Five

impair

Bigotry allows their bias to **impair** their sense of justice.

to harm; to cause to become
damaged; deteriorate
mentally, physically

Lesson Five

panegyric

The author didn't write an analytical biography; he threw together a mere

panegyric

an expression of praise

tribute; extolment

of a person

Lesson Five

quandary

Rob faced the pleasant **quandary** of choosing to go to the movies or play video games.

quandary: a perplexing situation; a dilemma
quandary: *perplexity*

Lesson Five

ebullient

A noisily **ebullient** crowd kept the visiting team from hearing the signals.

adj. enthusiastic

n. exuberance; liveliness

v. ebulliently; displayed

Lesson Five

deference

Deference must be given only to those who have earned it.

respect consideration

Lesson Five

carnal

Before being overthrown and executed, the emperor spent most of his time at his summer palace, feasting and engaging in other **carnal** pleasures.

According to physical appetite, carnal is sexual, sensual, or erotic. It is the lower, more

Lesson Five

Nebulous

Modern life can oppress us with a nameless
and **nebulous** feeling of dread.

hazy; vague; uncertain

fuzzy, indistinct; obscure

indistinct; plain

Lesson Five

rakish

The “Dapper Don” flashed his patented **rakish** smile as the feds frog-marched him off to jail.

Meaning: stylish and confident

Example: *dapper*; *dun*

Antonym: *disheveled*

Lesson Five

elegy

In reference to the mourners at graveside,
the pastor kept his **elegy** eloquent but short.

first: sad or mournful poem
second: elegy; laster

Lesson Five

pedantic

The **pedantic** teacher paraded his knowledge of tiny facts and ignored the important ideas in the book.

He was trying to show off on the lesson by **syn** bookish.



Lesson Six

Lesson Six

antipathy

First comes **antipathy**, and then revenge.

n. an intense dislike
syn. aversion
ant. affinity

Lesson Six

elucidate

To **elucidate** a point, the professor stated it in a variety of ways.

v. to make clear

syn: *explain, clarify*

ant: *obscure*

Lesson Six

Imminent

He gets here when he gets here," said
Brose, stoically expecting the imminent
arrival of the bounty hunter.

likely to happen; threatening;
impending; approaching
disquiet; dejection

Lesson Six

banal

The writer was so afraid of being **banal** that
he resorted to strange and baroque
language.

adj. common, ordinary

syn: trivial; insipid

ant: original; novel

Lesson Six

obdurate

Remaining **obdurate** in the face of unfair criticism, the ambassador completed the effective plan.

stubborn; hardhearted;
inflexible; obstinate
unyielding; adamant

Lesson Six

peruse

Don't just skim the chapter—**peruse** it carefully.

Read carefully, scrutinize

Lesson Six

bedlam

It was **bedlam** in the cafeteria, with food fights breaking out at tables around the room.

It roared, a scene of wild confusion: *mad as a hatter*, *mad as a March hare*, *mad as a hatter*, *mad as a March hare*.

Lesson Six

affluence

Verla made sure her children knew that their family's **affluence** had not come easily; their wealth had required two generations of toil and sacrifice from the coal mines to the board room.

prosperity, wealth; richness
syn. fortune

Lesson Six

scurrilous

Scurrilous tactics helped Ethan steal the election.

coarsely abusive/vulgar

syn: indecent

ant: respectful

Lesson Six

Parody

AI likes to create **parodies** of popular songs by replacing the original lyrics with his own humorous lyrics.

Parody is a work which imitates another work in a ridiculous manner.

Example: *Parodies*

Lesson Six

sedulous

Down's **sedulous** pursuit of success as a surgeon required years of patience and uncanny focus.

synonyms: diligent; hard-working; diligent;
studious; assiduous;
industrious; diligent; zealous;

Lesson Six

onerous

The state trooper had the **onerous** burden of informing Eric's parents that their son would not be coming home.

onus
somewhat heavy; hard to
bear; crushing; dire

Lesson Six

amoral

With **amoral** indifference, the killer circled the room and executed hostages at random.

Not having a sense of right and wrong.

syn: corrupt, evil, wicked

ant: moral, innocent; virtuous

Lesson Six

eschew

Back from the country, Farmer Brown was determined to **eschew** the evil vices of the city.

to keep away from; to avoid; to
shun; to eschew; to shun

Lesson Six

denouement

If the buildup of a movie doesn't grab you,
you won't stick around for the **denouement**.

an outcome; result

syn: conclusion



Lesson Seven

Lesson Seven

adroit

On the court, the **adroit** tennis player made even the most difficult moves look easy.

adj. skillful, clever

n. dexterity; art

n. avoirdupois

Lesson Seven

macroscopic

Professors think they have a **macroscopic** understanding of economics, but most people live day-to-day

invisible to the naked eye
what: *macroscopic*

Lesson Seven

fatuous

Fatuous answers to serious questions
earned Archie seriously poor grades.

adj. foolish; inane

syn: silly

ant: sensible;

Lesson Seven

bovine

The crowd moved with a kind of **bovine** slowness, ambling across the road and blocking traffic.

It was confined to cows and calves.

Lesson Seven

ferret

Jerry dug into the haystack and **ferreted** out
a needle.

search or drive out

Lesson Seven

affectation

The fashion police saw through Marilyn's **affectation** of high-style elegance.

She had a phony attitude, pose,

and *insincerity* she

never forgave.

Lesson Seven

knell

Senators sounded the death **knell** for the amendment when they voted against it.

made by a bell often rung to signify death or doom

Lesson Seven

dichotomy

A **dichotomy** in interpretations of law caused the judges to render a split decision.

division into two parts

Lesson Seven

callow

The Superintendent mistakenly entrusted the care of the dog to **callow** and mischievous youths.

young and inexperienced
immature
unsophisticated

Lesson Seven

Laconic

Deputies asked the **laconic** sheriff if he knew the way home, and he just said “Yep.”

Meaning: using few words; short; concise

Synonyms: *terse*; *laconic*; *pithy*; *taciturn*

Antonyms: *verbose*; *loquacious*

Lesson Seven

Quiddity

Kristina skipped the fluff and penetrated to
the **quiddity** of the argument.

an essential quality
synonymous

Lesson Seven

patent

Reporters were looking for the rough answers, but the caretaker just gave them **patent** retorts.

*li. evident or obvious is
disputable, not*

Lesson Seven

peccadillo

Roxalyn knew how to keep her excusable
peccadilloes in the right perspective.

nor offense a n' lee

Lesson Seven

sagacious

“Try not; do, or do not, there is no try,” said

Yoda, a **sagacious** Jedi master, to Luke

Skywalker.

Having keen perception

and judgment

shrewd; intelligent

wise; far-seeing

Lesson Seven

rationalize

Unlike other primates, humans can **rationalize** their most bizarre behavior.

to make an excuse for
sympathy



Lesson Eight

Lesson Eight

deride

Coverdice often motivates bullies to deride others.

to mock, to ridicule, to mock
syn: scorn
ant: praise

Lesson Eight

Censure

The dean **censured** the offending students and then sequestered them from any contact with others.

condemn; reprehend; censure; appraise

Lesson Eight

gambol

The young lambs **gamboled** across the meadow.

to romp about playfully; to caper

Lesson Eight

Immolate

In 17th century America, some wanted alleged witches to be **immolated** by burning them at the stake.

To sacrifice someone as a sacrificial offering is usually by fire.

Lesson Eight

Recondite

Students dreaded the idea of plowing through the **recondite** novel.

It took hours to understand a few

Lesson Eight

martinet

Captain Bligh, a British **martinet**, dealt extreme punishments to his ship's crew for small offenses.

disciplinarian: term

Lesson Eight

quagmire

Engaged down in a military **quagmire**, the captain gave the command for a strategic retreat.

trap; a difficult or extremely
situation

Lesson Eight

gibe

The audience **gibed** at the comedian and sent
him into an obscene rage.

gibe v. to scoff; to ridicule
n. a jest; jeer; taunt; snipe
a complement

Lesson Eight

agape

Suddenly, the old lady did a perfect hand spring and left the spectators **agape**.

stunned; dumb-mouthed; surprised;
stun: astounded

Lesson Eight

carcinogen

When a certain type of wood dust was discovered to be a **carcinogen**, sawmill workers had to begin wearing respiratory masks.

causing cancer

Lesson Eight

Olfactory

Many insects have **olfactory** receptors, nerve endings that respond to odorous stimuli, on their antennae.

perceiving a signal

Lesson Eight

imperious

The **imperious** prosecuting attorney caused the witness to flinch by moving toward her menacingly.

domineering; haughty

learned; arrogant

servile; submissive

Lesson Eight

grotesque

Some of the tribal art depicted **grotesque** half-human, half-animal creatures that stalked the wilderness in search of human prey.

grotesque: absurd; distorted

Lesson Eight

neologism

Most **neologism** have a short shelf life and fail to achieve permanent dictionary status.

new word or expression
synonym

Lesson Eight

hackneyed

Occasionally, every good writer settles for a
hackneyed phrase

commonplace; or trus-
sardine *synchrite*; or nar-
rowly imag-



Lesson Nine

Lesson Nine

machination

Unwilling to allow his secrets to fall upon
enemy ears, the king imprisoned any servant
he suspected of having heard his political
machinations.

an evil design or plan
syn: scheme, plot

Lesson Nine

pejorative

When confronted with different explanations, cynics enjoy selecting the most **pejorative** one.

...having a negative effect; in particular, disparaging, derogatory, or belittling
...a *cozily* intimate

Lesson Nine

Harbinger

Behold the robin, a **harbinger** of spring.

n. an omen or sign
of something
warning; port

Lesson Nine

nubile

Bert and blushed when he caught the eye of the **nubile** young woman.

for marriage in age and
ment, referring to

Lesson Nine

Sapient

Ernie decided he was not being appreciated enough for his **sapient** and successful approach to life.

Ernie is wise, full of knowledge

syn: sagacious

syn: famous; renowned

Lesson Nine

chimerical

Hoping to find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow is a **chimerical** delusion.

adj. imaginary; fantastic

syn. absurd; illusionary

ant. realistic

Lesson Nine

masochist

The general was a **masochist** who enjoyed placing himself and his men in desperate battles.

enjoys his or her own suffering

Lesson Nine

finesse

Competing claims tested the arbitrator's **finesse** in decision-making.

synonym: diplomacy; tact; artful management

antonym: skill; cunning

example: finesse

Lesson Nine

heterogeneous

It was a **heterogeneous** crowd, angry, vocal, and representing all demographics.

adj. different; dissimilar

syn: diverse, varied

ant: homogeneous

Lesson Nine

Eclectic

With an **eclectic** approach, Lonnie chose
sentences from all walks of life.

Choosing from various sources
is a **syn selective** process.
It is **not** narrow.

Lesson Nine

grandiose

The actor's **grandiose** gesture, though
charitable and generous, happened to
coincide with the release of her latest film.

impressive; showy; magnificent
stately; imposing
grand; sumptuous

Lesson Nine

Raiment

The starlet paraded along the red carpet, wearing **raiment** on loan from Givenchy.

clothing; game

Lesson Nine

blanch

Decades of laboring in the sun has **blanched** his hair.

to whiten; to make pale

Lesson Nine

hybrid

The dog was a **hybrid**, otherwise known as a mutt.

anything of mixed origin

Lesson Nine

idiosyncrasy

The author's trademark literary

idiosyncrasies amused some and annoyed others.

peculiar personal traits

eccentricities or



Lesson Ten

Lesson Ten

Idolatry

Some pediatricians have accused over-protective parents of child **idolatry**.

or blind adoration, where a child is an object of worship.

Lesson Ten

adulterate

By adding water to the wine, the shabby restaurant **adulterated** its quality and cheated the customers.

adulterate vt. to make impure; to contaminate
Latin: *adulterare*; *adulter*: to cheat; *adulter*: to cheat
French: *adulter*; *adulter*: to cheat; *adulter*: to cheat

Lesson Ten

emanate

A steady stream of water **emanated** from the broken fire hydrant.

come forth; to send forth;
to issue; to issue; emanate

Lesson Ten

garish

Some store window displays are simple and elegant, but others are **garish** and trashy.

adj. tastelessly gaudy

“showy; glaring; flashy”

“tasteless; conspicuous”

Lesson Ten

immutable

The aging actress spent thousands on cosmetic surgery, only to find that the effects of age and gravity are **immutable**.

avivah. unchangeable, fixed
syn: *enduring*
ant: *variable, changeable*

Lesson Ten

diadem

Looking to upgrade her image, the queen had her **diadem** encrusted with jewels.

not a crown

Lesson Ten

bucolic

Unicorns and griffins frolicked in the **bucolic**
and verdant landscape.

Contrasting to the countryside

rustic

synonymous

urban

Lesson Ten

redolent

The crooked politician conducted a campaign **redolent** of vice and corruption.

emitting a pleasant odor, suggest

evocative

synonymous

synonym: *perfumy, scented*

Lesson Ten

impecunious

Despite their **impecunious** status, the family lived healthily and happily through foraging and hunting.

without money; penniless
destitute; indigent
fluent; profligate

Lesson Ten

Sedition

No self-respecting government allows **sedition** and its rebellious methods to go unpunished.

Revolution or resistance against government is a bad thing; and

Lesson Ten

defile

An immoral act **defiles** the character of those who do it and those who let it happen.

to pollute; to corrupt

Lesson Ten

gratuitous

Geri's directions were helpful, but her **gratuitous** details confused the lost travelers, and they were forced to stop and ask someone else for directions.

necessary or unneeded

Lesson Ten

onus

John accepted the **onus** of explaining why his group was late.

burden; a responsibility
onus, obligation

Lesson Ten

Impious

Larry joined in the **impious** laughter at the bumbling clergyman.

disrespectful toward God
irreligious, profane
disputatious; pious

Lesson Ten

caveat

Remember the buyer's **caveat**: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

*not a warning
definition*



Lesson Eleven

Lesson Eleven

elixir

Everyone wants to drink the **elixir** from the
mythic Fountain of Youth.

Used remedy for pain
medicine; pain

Lesson Eleven

desiccated

His weathered, aged features reminded Nellie
of a **desiccated** prune.

and dried to

Lesson Eleven

Cessation

The **cessation** of pain was a relief for the wounded adventurer, but Dirk knew that it was only because he was going into shock.

Stopping; a discontinuation
Syn: ceasing, ending
Ant: continuing

Lesson Eleven

juxtapose

To portray a subtle difference in culture, the photographer **juxtaposed** a bus driver from America, who wore a polo shirt and slacks, with a bus driver from Japan, who wore a fancy uniform with white gloves.

side-by-side for comparison
measure; compare

Lesson Eleven

kinetic

We live in a **kinetic** world in which, always, somewhere, someone is in motion.

Everything pertaining to motion

Lesson Eleven

garrulous

After days of silence, the old prospector suddenly turned into a **garrulous** storyteller.

adj. talkative

He was so loquacious over the

mineral rights.

Lesson Eleven

fetish

The shaman made a **fetish** of the bear claw, which was thought to retain the spirit of the animal.

that receives respect or
attention; charm; talisman

Lesson Eleven

scintillate

With witty remarks and fascinating tales, the raconteur **scintillated** as keynote speaker.

to sparkle, to twinkle; to sparkle
intellectually

Lesson Eleven

lachrymose

The undertaker hired a professional mourner who could fake **lachrymose** behavior on cue.

adj. tearful, weep

Lesson Eleven

fissure

A **fissure** developed in their previously solid relationship.

opening: a groove or slit

Lesson Eleven

When looking for the **epitome** of creative glory, most playwrights select Shakespeare.

For example, a typical example of a *document*, etc.

Lesson Eleven

languid

The fatigued crossing guard slowly lifted and lowered a **languid** arm.

languid: drooping from weariness
languidly: feebly; disinclined
vigilant: vigilant

Lesson Eleven

delineate

Professor Thompson hinted at and then fully **delineated** her plan for the class year.

to describe, to depict

Lesson Eleven

legerdemain

Misdirection is a key component of a magician's **legerdemain**.

Right of hand, decoy

Lesson Eleven

libertine

The marquis was a notorious **libertine** who spent his entire fortune on elaborate parties and lavish luxuries.

He was a man who leads an immoral life, a *libertino* or *glutton* in English.



Lesson Twelve

Lesson Twelve

halcyon

The balloon drifted in the **halcyon** and
cloudless sky.

adj. calm; pleasant
adj. tranquil; untroubled
n. tunic; tunic

Lesson Twelve

fastidious

The **fastidious** writer rarely met her deadlines, but the magazine was still willing to purchase her superior articles.

fastidious: hard to please,ussy
meticulous: exacting
fastidious:ussy

Lesson Twelve

badinage

There superficial relationship was comprised mainly of **badinage** and frivolous day trips.

playful, teasing talk

banter; chaff; joking

Lesson Twelve

malapropism

Listen for **malapropisms**, which are word confusions, and you'll be rewarded with a laugh or two.

and humorously mis

Lesson Twelve

garner

After attending several conventions, the comic book collector had **garnered** a complete set of his favorite series.

to gather; to acquire
syn: harvest

Lesson Twelve

kismet

Aaron refused to believe that his low-paying delivery job was his **kismet** in life.

destiny; fortune; one's lot

Lesson Twelve

hegira

The road extended to the horizon for the **hegira** of refugees leaving the bombed-out city.

n. flight; escape

Lesson Twelve

paradigm

Diana's thoughtful and accurate biography of Einstein became the **paradigm** for subsequent studies.

model; an example

Lesson Twelve

debauchery

Local residents blamed the casino for the drugs, prostitution, and general **debauchery** surrounding it.

disruption; self-indulgent
excess; dissipation

Lesson Twelve

milieu

Unlike the other professors, Dr. Rowley never felt at ease in the academic milieu in which he worked.

environment setting

Lesson Twelve

regress

The decadent society steadily regressed into anarchy.

to move backward

Lesson Twelve

bilious

The **bilious** fool endlessly blamed and chastised people for mistakes that others made.

adj. bad-tempered; cross
roughly; cantankerous
inf. *heasa*

Lesson Twelve

necromancy

After asserting her mastery of **necromancy**, the old woman attempted to communicate with the spirits of the dead.

Especially that practiced in
black magic, for

Lesson Twelve

gumption

Some called it **gumption**, others called it true grit, but whatever the settlers' motivation, they endured hardships unimaginable to reach their destinations.

and initiative: common sense, aggressive

Lesson Twelve

blandishment

The scam artist's **blandishments** lowered the victim's defenses enough to get her to donate money to the bogus charity.

flattery
surprise; bribe



Lesson Thirteen

Lesson Thirteen

nirvana

William, who had endured a difficult life, thought that winning the lottery would enable her to live in a state of **nirvana**; instead, however, her new wealth brought misery.

...a state of great peace and happiness

Lesson Thirteen

salutary

Elaine's strict regimen of diet and exercise had a **salutary** effect on her health.

adj. healthful; wholesome
syn: beneficial
ant: pernicious

Lesson Thirteen

despicable

The **despicable** scheme involved taking in foster children and using them for sweatshop laborers.

despectibilis, contemptible; *infestus*, pestiferous; *syn-vile*, base; *de-laudo*, blamable; *vile*, contemptible

Lesson Thirteen

Harlequin

In the theater, a **harlequin** is a clown who exhibits the nimble grace of an acrobat.

is a clown

Lesson Thirteen

Empathy

Empathy requires you to walk a mile in someone else's shoes before trying to understand him or her.

Understanding of another's
emotion; *recognition; comprehension*

Lesson Thirteen

brevity

The newcomer was shocked by the **brevity** of mourning after one of the pioneers died on the trail—a one-hour funeral and burial was all the time the wagons could spare.

briefness; short duration
conciseness; terseness; concision
nothing

Lesson Thirteen

savant

The **savant** was the world's foremost physicist, yet sometimes forgot to wear pants when he left for work in the morning.

of extensive learning; a scholar

Lesson Thirteen

obsequious

Jacques advanced rapidly at the company through his **obsequious** flattery of the boss.

excessively submissive or

attentive

servile; fawning

ingratiating;

Lesson Thirteen

redundant

Each **redundant** cluster of mini-malls, each having essentially the same stores as the others, made Brennan long for the pristine mountains and valleys where he had been raised.

He was meticulous, using more words than he needed.

He was also excessively vain, and he was entirely

Lesson Thirteen

offal

The **offal** flowed from the city's old stockyards and meatpacking plants into the polluted river.

carbage; waste products

Lesson Thirteen

hoi polloi

By lowering his writing standards, the author
hoped to sell more books to the hoi polloi.

Common people: the ma-

Lesson Thirteen

Sentient

Even the least **sentient** members of the audience perceived the speaker's embarrassment.

conscious; capable of feeling
perceiving
art: live; of the

Lesson Thirteen

Impinge

The rules were constructed so as not to **impinge** on anyone's ability to earn a top salary.

encroach; to trespass
impinge; intrude

Lesson Thirteen

Cataract

As the ice melted, the tiny brook slowly
turned into a roaring **cataract**.

a large waterfall

Lesson Thirteen

animosity

During an election year, discussing politics
is a sure way to create **animosity** among
friends.

n. Hatred

syn: ill will; hostility

syn: belligerence; combativeness



Lesson Fourteen

Lesson Fourteen

bombast

The clever speaker provided a mixture of rousing **bombast** and quiet persuasion.

the bomb mean angle of a

Lesson Fourteen

orthography

By leaving proper **orthography** to a computerized spell checker, Sandi was trusting a flawed system.

correct spelling

Lesson Fourteen

paleontology

An expert in **paleontology** said the remains were 150,000-year-old human skulls.

When dealing with prehistoric life, paleontology is the study of fossils.

Lesson Fourteen

recoil

The general public **recoiled** at the scenes of brutality that had occurred inside the prison.

retreat; to draw back

Lesson Fourteen

panache

With graceful **panache** Gerald removed his coat and placed it over his shivering girlfriend's shoulders.

confidence; a show of
style; *chic*; *chrisman*

Lesson Fourteen

Saturnine

The **saturnine** team stared blankly out the bus windows on the drive home after losing their championship game by a single point.

adj. gloomy; sluggish
syn: sullen; morose
an: *saturnia*

Lesson Fourteen

Endemic

The sugar maple tree is **endemic** to eastern North America.

Found only in a particular country or region; *native; indigenous*
endemic area: for

Lesson Fourteen

mendacious

Though obviously **mendacious**, James kept friends entertained with his wildly fictional tales.

adj. lying; false; deceitful

syn. duplicitous

ant. truthful

Lesson Fourteen

obviate

Modeline **obviated** a confrontation by winning her critics over with laughter.

to prevent; to get around

syn: circumvent

Lesson Fourteen

paroxysm

The mushroom cloud loomed over the horizon, just miles from the city, and caused a **paroxysm** of panic.

There was a sudden outburst of fire from the northwest; columns of smoke

Lesson Fourteen

aggrandize

Ralph **aggrandized** his own argument while belittling his opponent's points.

Verb 1. To increase the range of; to expand.

2. To make appear larger

Latin *aggrāre*: enlarge; augment; enrich

Opposite *decrease*; diminish

Related *exaggerate*; *exaggeration*

Example *devastate*

Lesson Fourteen

deign

The politician did not **deign** to speak candidly
and thus lost the election.

He *deigned* to
confer on himself before he in-
vested in a stock company.

Lesson Fourteen

flaunt

“If you got it, **flaunt** it,” said the arrogant athlete.

v. to show off

syn: boast; exhibit

ant: conceal

Lesson Fourteen

shibboleth

The disguised Confederate soldier accidentally used a Southern shibboleth, and the nervous Union sentry shot him.

A shibboleth is a pronunciation that distinguishes one group from another, as of a particular dialect.

Lesson Fourteen

elicit

Peter tried to **elicit** laughter by telling a racist joke, but he provoked only disdain.

to draw forth, to call for

syn: evoke; extract

syn: evoke; extract



Lesson Fifteen

Lesson Fifteen

Orifice

The vent of a volcano is an **orifice** through which magma erupts as gasses and lava.

mouth; opening

Lesson Fifteen

hallow

Experts **hallow** the university for its superb engineering program.

v. to make holy

hallow: *hallow*; *consecrate*

hallow: *consecrate*

Lesson Fifteen

perdition

The preacher breathed fire and brimstone at his congregation, threatening them with **perdition**.

damnation; ruin; hell

Lesson Fifteen

chaff

The book offers a few useful suggestions,
but the rest of it is **chaff**.

in. worthless material
syn. rubbish

Lesson Fifteen

aesthetic

Ezra presented her boyfriend's alleged intellectual and **aesthetic** values to her skeptical family.

adj. pertaining to beauty
syn: artistic
ant: ugly, unattractive

Lesson Fifteen

empirical

Avoiding the easy choice of idle speculation, the scientist offered solid **empirical** data.

Based on practical experience rather than theory

Latin: *observabile*
English: *empirical*

Lesson Fifteen

germane

When writing essays, keep your points
precise, clear, and **germane**.

adj. relevant; fitting

adj. appropriate; pertinent

adj. relevant

Lesson Fifteen

hermetic

The **hermetic**, steel containers used to store the radioactive waste are designed to last 20,000 years.

*adj. tightly sealed
syn. airtight*

Lesson Fifteen

meretricious

The author's **meretricious** writing style
masked an emptiness of content.

...active in a cheap flash
...gauche; showy; tawdry;
...stylized; ...

Lesson Fifteen

querulous

Querulous discontent rippled through the audience.

complaining; grumbly

syn: fretful; peevish

syn: discontent;

Lesson Fifteen

flaccid

Years of repetitive meetings turned the
account executive's strong
presentations into **flaccid** farces.

adj. flabby

syn: weak; feeble

ant: solid; tough

Lesson Fifteen

hospice

While backpacking through the Alps, Derek and Kim encountered a grim **hospice** in Transylvania.

For travelers, orphans, or the infirm, the hospice was a place of refuge and sustenance, a place where the destitute could find shelter and care.

Lesson Fifteen

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Lesson Fifteen

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Lesson Fifteen

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Lesson Fifteen

egregious

So **egregious** was Maria's conduct that she was banned forever from the chess club.

Remarkably bad; outrageous

Syn: flagrant, gross

Ant: moderate

Lesson Fifteen

to **rationate**

Brianna was a night owl, and she loved to **rationate** in depth until the wee hours of the morning.

to reason; to think

Lesson Fifteen

foment

Teo preferred to make provocative remarks and **foment** a rebellion that he could watch from the sidelines.

*v. to stir up; to incite
n. instigation; instigate, provoke
n. instigator; instill; concoct*



Lesson Sixteen

Lesson Sixteen

salient

It was not easy to find the few **salient** details
in the author's dull verbiage.

salient; conspicuous; stand
out; prominent; from the rest
of the group; prominent; report

Lesson Sixteen

recant

Under pressure from the inquisitor, the young woman **recanted** her previous religious beliefs.

law of disavow a state
of opinion

Lesson Sixteen

Jocular

No matter how desperate the circumstances, Captain Smith maintained his jocular and confident manner with his men.

humorous; light-hearted

joking; witty and funny

carefree; merry

Lesson Sixteen

palliate

Students sought ways to **palliate** the boredom of their confinement in detention hall.

ease, to lessen; to soothe

alleviate, alleviate, alleviate

alleviate, alleviate

Lesson Sixteen

Malleable

Ryan held firm convictions, yet his attitude was still **malleable** enough to accept changes.

of being change meas
syn *workable*
rich *infl*

Lesson Sixteen

recreant

The Mafia consigliere with the big vocabulary called the whistle-blower a **recreant** and a rat.

a coward; a traitor

Lesson Sixteen

affinity

Maria's **affinity** for the theater developed during her first acting experience in high school.

n. an attraction or
partiality; fondness
for a person or
thing; versed

Lesson Sixteen

impalpable

Trapped in a far-off land, Sarah had only her **impalpable** memories of home to comfort her at night.

Impalpable: unable to be felt; intangible; imperceptible; indistinguishable

Lesson Sixteen

fiscal

Because Shawn never demonstrated **fiscal** responsibility, his parents refused to give him another loan.

pertaining to finances
economic; budget

Lesson Sixteen

The decadent courtiers **regaled** themselves with rare and expensive truffles flown in from the Middle East.

might with something ple
 amusing
entertain; am
 res

Lesson Sixteen

miscreant

The notorious **miscreant** had been wanted for crimes in eight different states before his subsequent imprisonment.

He was a vicious person,
a villain criminal.

Lesson Sixteen

Flagellate

When the fireman dropped the high pressure hose, it **flagellated** the parked cars along the street, bending doors and breaking windshields.

v. to whip; to lash
n. *flog*

Lesson Sixteen

lascivious

Society usually frowns on **lascivious** public conduct, but is more tolerant of such behavior in private.

adj. lustful or lewd

syn: wanton; obscene

ex: "Who, home, who?

Lesson Sixteen

flout

In flaunting his individualism, Jerry **flouted** the rules of his school.

Syn. to show contempt

Syn. mock; scorn

Syn. despise; reject

Lesson Sixteen

salacious

The store placed the **salacious** magazines
behind the counter.

adj. obscene; lustful

syn. lecherous

ant. chaste



Lesson Seventeen

Lesson Seventeen

rebuttal

The team **rebutted** the player who seldom showed up for practice but always wanted to play first string.

to rebuke; to scold; to blame
to diminish; to diminish
to rebuke; to scold; to blame

Lesson Seventeen

Nonentity

In a large, impersonal corporation, some employees must struggle to keep from feeling they are **nonentities**.

nonentity: *crabber; nullo*

Lesson Seventeen

sang-froid

Marcie accepted her punishment with
unemotional **sang-froid**.

calmness; composure or com-
pensation
dom, self-control
the type

Lesson Seventeen

desultory

It was a **desultory** presentation, full of long
and uncomfortable silences.

... spring from subjects to subjects
... *disconnected* ...

Lesson Seventeen

hector

The teacher **hector**ed the students until a few
burst into tears.

to bully; to beset;
haggle; haggle; haggle

Lesson Seventeen

pandemic

The flu strain **pandemic** of 1918 and 1919 killed some 50 million to 100 million people worldwide.

general; widespread

Lesson Seventeen

coalesce

Many separate groups **coalesced** into a mighty army.

*v. to blend; to merge
n. mix, unite, combine
v. to unite; to merge*

Lesson Seventeen

to beguile

From behind the curtain stepped a child prodigy who **beguiled** the audience by playing a Chopin polonaise.

to deceive; to charm; to enchant
syn. charm, fool, beguile, fascinate; to

Lesson Seventeen

ennui

Oppressed by **ennui**, the retired statesman looked around desperately for something important to do.

ennui: a weariness resulting from a lack of interest or excitement; *ennui*; boredom

Lesson Seventeen

hiatus

Over the holidays, bloggers go on hiatus from the demands of spreading gossip and conjecture.

n. a pause or gap
interruption *hi*

Lesson Seventeen

Lambent

Veronica's **lambent** eyes made Miguel forget
what he had planned to say.

lambent: bright or radiant; glowing
over a surface
glowing;

Lesson Seventeen

ergo

"You spent our paychecks on video poker machines; **ergo**, we eat beans and rice this week!" scolded Wayne's wife, Maggie.

consequenter

Lesson Seventeen

hubris

Hubris has defeated many an overaggressive general.

Excessive pride or self-confidence; arrogance; overconfidence
Synonyms: *dimity*

Lesson Seventeen

pecuniary

Cornie reviewed her **pecuniary** resources and decided to hit her parents up for a loan.

synonyms to money financial
synonyms money

Lesson Seventeen

sibilant

John's jokes bombed, and he heard the **sibilant** sounds of an unhappy audience hissing in disgust.

hiss /i/ a hissing sound



Lesson Eighteen

Lesson Eighteen

incendiary

Falsely shouting “fire” in a crowded room is
a hostile and **incendiary** act.

using to excite or inflame
instigative, inc

Lesson Eighteen

apothecosis

Discovering an authentic pirate map and then traveling in search of treasure was, to the neighborhood children, the **apothecosis** of adventure.

the finest example of
apothecosis; and the

Lesson Eighteen

contiguous

The firefighters worked quickly to contain the fire to one of the eight **contiguous** townhouses.

Being in direct contact or touching
side by side
adj. adjoining; touching
adj. touching; direct

Lesson Eighteen

auspicious

Seeing how the staff quit their jobs during his first day on the job was not an **auspicious** start for the new manager.

favorable or promising
opposite: discouraging

Lesson Eighteen

vociferous

Indulging in **vociferous** bragging cheapened
the athlete's accomplishments.

The celebration was marked by noise, loud
cheers, *inistatous*; clamorous

Lesson Eighteen

avuncular

An **avuncular** demeanor made En a popular coach.

similar to an uncle

Lesson Eighteen

proletariat

A discontented **proletariat** picketed the
opulent estate of the corrupt governor.

working class or low class

Lesson Eighteen

tenacious

The soldiers staged a **tenacious** defense and broke the enemy's will.

tenacious: firmly held; not easy to surrender; clinging; persistent; strong and weak

Lesson Eighteen

Specious

With **specious** reasoning, the salesman convinced the elderly couple to purchase the luxury car with all the unnecessary and unlikely to be used options.

deceptive or misleading

syn: false

ant: accurate

Lesson Eighteen

refractory

The driver stopped the school bus and refused to leave until the **refractory** passengers sat down and stopped screaming.

unmanageable or difficult to control
stubborn; willful

refractory: pronounced
ri-fri-TOE-ree con

Lesson Eighteen

Inimitable

In advertising, every new product seems to be depicted as a proven, **inimitable** breakthrough.

inimitable cannot be imitated
inimitable; can't be copied

Lesson Eighteen

malfeasance

A bank officer accepting cash gifts from loan customers is definitely **malfeasance**.

Product of wrongdoing, especially
as part of a public official's
employment: **crime**.

Lesson Eighteen

Platonic

Natalie, whose lab partner had a crush on her, promised him that their relationship would never exceed a **platonic** status.

It was caused by the absence of romantic or physical attraction.

Lesson Eighteen

pontificate

Feeling quite proud of herself, Nina
pontificated on why her decision had been
such a good idea.

in a pretentiously digni-
fied, dogmatic way
as if he were a sermon

Lesson Eighteen

prurient

Accustomed to the **prurient** behavior of celebrities, the public yawned and went on with their lives.

to lustful or lewd thoughts
syn: obscene



Lesson Nineteen

Lesson Nineteen

insuperable

The adventure magazine honored **insuperable** heroes who dared to cross uncharted waters.

not able to be overcome;
insuperable; insurmountable

Lesson Nineteen

apex

The reckless mountaineer fell from the apex of the mountain and tumbled nearly 1000 feet down the north face.

highest point of something
summit, pinnacle, summit
top and bottom

Lesson Nineteen

acrid

The food critic lambasted the restaurant over the **acrid** taste of their charred steaks, which resembled coal more than meat.

acrid: having a sharp taste or smell

Lesson Nineteen

Fulminate

After he **fulminated** about his congregation's sins, the preacher quickly passed the collection plate.

He voiced disapproval or protest
He *syn. denounce*

Lesson Nineteen

jejune

Edward tried to pump some life into his **jejune** essay.

jejune: without interest; dull

synonyms: insipid; routine

antonyms: interesting; creative

Lesson Nineteen

hegemony

American movies have established a cultural **hegemony** in many countries around the world.

influence or domination of
one country over another : *dominion over*

Lesson Nineteen

truculent

In the time when kings went off to wars and cities were sacked and burned, a **truculent** response to enemy provocation was thought to be the only way to prevent further attacks.

Truculent (adj. marked by ferocity)

Synonyms: *rapacious, savage*

Antonyms: *peaceful, gentle*

Lesson Nineteen

Credulity

His exaggerated adventure tales strain the **credulity** of even the most naïve listeners.

Willingness to believe too readily

Latin: fides; credere

Optical illusion

Lesson Nineteen

dross

So effective is Reuben's poetry that its occasional instances of **dross** come as a surprise.

n. refuse or was
s. *tras*

Lesson Nineteen

verisimilitude

The author's dialogue is too contrived and stylized to provide any semblance of **verisimilitude**.

the appearance of truth
verisimilitude

Lesson Nineteen

viscous

Maggie had an unfortunate knack for hiding her good ideas in a kind of **viscous**, clotted prose.

viscous: a thick or sticky consistency, like glue
viscous: *vis* + *cid* + *ous*; a noun

Lesson Nineteen

psychosomatic

Emotional and mental factors trigger the physical symptoms associated with **psychosomatic** illness.

relating to symptoms caused by emotional or psychological factors

Lesson Nineteen

abnegation

The rehab center enforced the **abnegation** of
drugs and alcohol.

Willingness to admit reality

denial

sym rejection

denial; auto

Lesson Nineteen

polyglot

The **polyglot** has far greater access to intellectual and cultural resources than a mere monoglot.

with knowledge of two
languages

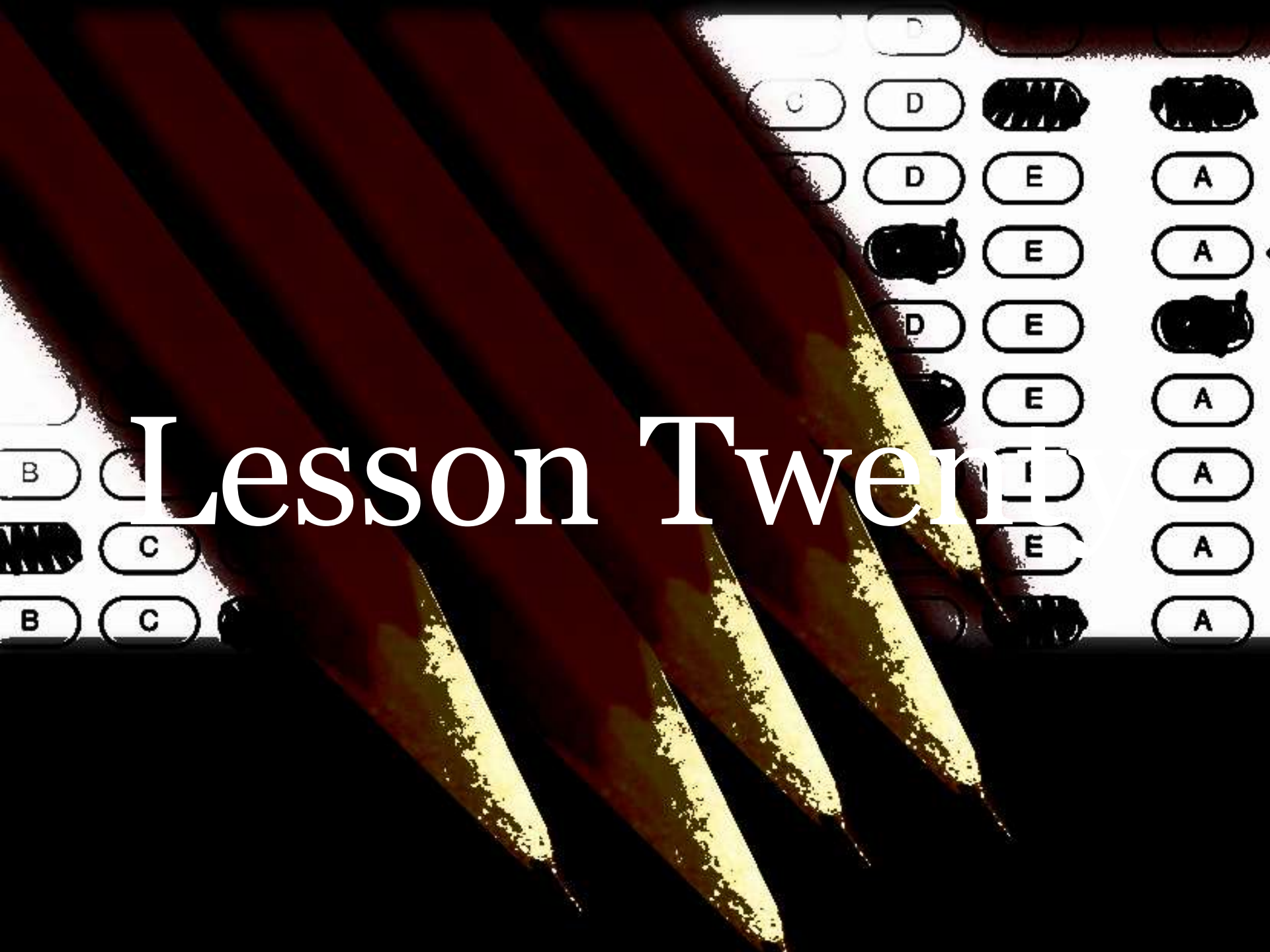
Lesson Nineteen

gravitas

The TV newscaster's harsh voice and odd mannerisms compromised the **gravitas** of his presentation.

n. seriousness

n. rightness



Lesson Twenty

Lesson Twenty

intractable

After years of therapy, Clark was finally able to manage his **intractable** temper.

It is difficult to manipulate or get a message across if you are *incommunicable*.

Lesson Twenty

disseminate

As war-torn citizens of imminent bombing, reconnaissance planes **disseminated** leaflets in the vicinity of the target.

to disperse or scatter
syn. distribute

Lesson Twenty

Sinecure

Political favors have placed many incompetent people in government **sinecures**.

A sinecure provides income but little or no work.

Lesson Twenty

tendentious

When reading a **tendentious** editorial, be sure to determine where its facts end and opinions begin.

Read in perspective; prefer
one view over another
biased; partial
offer

Lesson Twenty

politic

In an attempt to offend no one, discourse
sometimes goes from **politic** to the fearful
realm of politically correct.

He is a student or shrewd tactician
who is *calculating*, *cautious*, *unimpassioned*.

Lesson Twenty

extemporaneous

Shortly after an asteroid heading toward Earth was spotted, the president's science advisor was brought to the White House to deliver an **extemporaneous** briefing on what to expect in the event of a collision.

Without planning; spur of the moment; unexpected; makes up as you go along; spontaneous

Lesson Twenty

discursive

Professor Devo wrote **discursive** essays that
weaned even the most determined explorers
of his prose.

...ing from one topic to another
in any order of reason
are discursive; *non*

Lesson Twenty

diaspora

Science fiction **diaspora** feature intrepid souls who escape from earth to form colonies on distant planets.

A dispersion of people from their homeland to other places.

Lesson Twenty

Requiem

When the athlete competed after his skills were gone, the fan club conducted a kind of requiem for his past achievements.

...ious service or song for
...ease

Lesson Twenty

traduce

Carrie **traduced** his opponent, and she sued
him for slander.

to slander someone's reputation;
slandering; belittling

Lesson Twenty

acerbic

A steady stream of **acerbic** remarks seldom
inspires affection.

He was sarcastic in mood, tone, or
manner, and harsh

Lesson Twenty

Beatitude

Being wealthy was a **beatitude** to the self-made millionaire, despite all the old sayings that suggest money brings unhappiness.

It is a state of happiness or joy.
Synonyms: bliss; euphoria
Antonyms: agony

Lesson Twenty

Maladroit

The words same, but the **maladroit** rescuers
were too late.

Resourceful or cunning,
Maladroit: incompetent.

Lesson Twenty

androgynous

Having both male and female parts, certain **androgynous** flowers are able to fertilize themselves.

It has features of both sexes,
both male and female.

Lesson Twenty

augur

The gamblers regarded the woman as an **augur** because she always predicted which horse would win.

Someone who predicts future events according to some supernatural means is called an *augur*.



Lesson Twenty-One

Lesson Twenty-One

bon mot

Ralph was a regular on television, delivering his slightly amusing **bon mots** to the country.

A witty remark or saying
esprit qu'il

Lesson Twenty-One

peon

Having never tried to excel in anything, Howard resigned himself to the life of a peon, destined to work go-nowhere jobs for no reason other than his own laziness.

Peons are laborers who are generally paid very little and handles menial tasks; servants.

Lesson Twenty-One

plutocrat

The dictator's hidden agenda was to keep government in the friendly hands of a few

plutocrats.

of the controlling upper class
an plebe

Lesson Twenty-One

Plenary

When Bryce finishes his college degree, he will be promoted and eligible for the **plenary** benefits of his full-time position.

Complete in every way;
Latin: thoroughness
Complete, thorough

Lesson Twenty-One

digress

Students attempted to get the teacher to **digress** and thus forget about the test scheduled for that day.

Note from the original source:
This is a course
syllabus *stray*

Lesson Twenty-One

Furlough

After months in combat, the marines enjoyed the **furlough** on the beautiful island of Bora Bora.

As a leave of absence or *vacation*, the

Lesson Twenty-One

Misogyny

The prevailing **misogyny** in the office ensured that women, though qualified, were rarely allowed to compete for management positions.

attitude toward females

Lesson Twenty-One

stolid

1. No one could determine from the coach's **stolid** expression how well his team was doing.

2. The judge was **stolid**, showing or having little or no emotion.
3. The judge had an **impassive** stare.
4. The judge was **stolid**; a

Lesson Twenty-One

succor

In troubled times, religion provided crucial **succor** to Sandra and her family.

Something that gives relief

Syn: comfort, ease

Syn: aid, help, support

Lesson Twenty-One

Travesty

After being wrongly convicted, the defendant called his trial a **travesty** of justice.

misrepresentation or imitation;
perforation / sk

Lesson Twenty-One

xeric

Ability to survive without water for up to two weeks, camels perform well in **xeric** conditions.

Characterized by an arid habitat

Lesson Twenty-One

clandestine

Chris's behavior was so **clandestine** that she seemed almost ghostlike at work.

clandestine, marked by secrecy and cover, hidden

Lesson Twenty-One

potboiler

Believing that only **potboilers** made the best-selling list, Edwin usually avoided reading them.

For one artistic work, after
profit

Lesson Twenty-One

redoubtable

The **redoubtable** foxes caused widespread alarm among the timid Chicken Littles in the community.

adj. arousing fear

syn: dreadful, dire

ant: wonderful; terrific

Lesson Twenty-One

Vignette

Critics were hoping for a full-scale biography, but received a superficial **vignette** instead.

descriptive literature