

Lesson 5

Definitions



1.	acrimonious	ak ruh MONE ee us	caustic		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	cordial
	The prisoner of war had acrimonious remarks for those that mistreated him.				
	Derivatives >>	acrimony, acrimoniously, acrimoniousness			
2.	ameliorate	uh MEE lee o rate	to make better, to relieve, to improve		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to make worse; to aggravate
	Social workers attempt to ameliorate the conditions of people living in the slum areas.				
	Derivatives >>	ameliorated, ameliorating, ameliorable, ameliorant, ameliorative, ameliorator, amelioration			
3.	amenable	uh MEN uh bul	open to or willing to follow advice or suggestion, tractable, malleable		
	Synonyms >>	docile, obedient		Antonym >>	unwilling
	Since I like him and usually agree with him, I am always amenable to listening to his ideas.				
	Derivatives >>	amenability, amenableness, amenably			
4.	amorphous	uh MOR fuss	shapeless, having no definite form		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	structured
	In the science fiction movie, the amorphous mass terrorized the town.				
	Derivatives >>	amorphously, amorphousness, amorphism			
5.	buoyant	BOY unt	capable of floating; cheerful		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	likely to sink
	Because the log was buoyant, it stayed afloat. The girl's buoyant spirit made her pleasant company.				
	Derivatives >>	buoyancy, buoyance, buoyantly, buoyantness, buoy			
6.	cajole	kuh JOLE	to persuade with deliberate flattery, to coax, to wheedle		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to browbeat
	I will not be cajoled into allowing you to stay up past your bedtime.				
	Derivatives >>	cajoled, cajoling, cajolery, cajoleries, cajolement, cajoler			
7.	calamity	kuh LAM uh tee	a serious event causing distress or misfortune		
	Synonyms >>	cataclysm, catastrophe		Antonym >>	good fortune
	The earthquake in Mexico was a calamity.				
	Derivatives >>	calamitous, calamitously, calamitousness			
8.	debase	deh BASE	to reduce in dignity or quality		
	Synonyms >>	abase, corrupt, debauch, demean, deprave, pervert, vitiate		Antonym >>	to glorify
	Do not debase yourself by swearing.				
	Derivatives >>	debased, debasing, debasement, debaser, debasingly			
9.	efface	eh FASE	to erase, to wear away		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to make conspicuous
	The date on the coin has been effaced.				
	Derivatives >>	effaceable, effacement, effacer			
10.	elucidate	eh LOO seh date	to make clear, to explain		
	Synonyms >>	explicate, expound		Antonym >>	to confuse
	I will try to elucidate some of the important changes in the tax code.				
	Derivatives >>	elucidation, elucidative, elucidatory, elucidator			
11.	ephemeral	eh FEM ur ul	lasting a short period of time, fleeting		
	Synonyms >>	evanescent, fleeting, fugitive, transient, transitory		Antonym >>	lasting; timeless; eternal
	The microorganism had an ephemeral lifespan. It died shortly after it was created.				
	Derivatives >>	ephemerally, ephemerality, ephemerality, ephemeron, ephemorous			

12.	ferocity	fuh ROS eh tee	savagery		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	mildness
	A tiger is an animal that has ferocity.				
	Derivatives >>	ferocious, ferociously, ferociousness			
13.	flourish	FLUR ish	to thrive, to grow well		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to wither
	The company flourished after a new board of directors took control.				
	Derivatives >>	flourisher, flourishing, flourishingly, flourishy			
14.	haughty	HAW tee	arrogant, excessively proud and vain		
	Synonyms >>	disdainful, high-handed, insolent, lordly, supercilious		Antonym >>	humble
	Being quarterback of the football team does not give him the right to be haughty.				
	Derivatives >>	haughtily, haughtiness			
15.	impervious	im PUR vee us	incapable of being entered or penetrated, not capable of being damaged		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	penetrable
	Because this watch is impervious to water, I can go swimming while wearing it.				
	Derivatives >>	imperviously, imperviousness			
16.	inane	eh NANE	lacking significance, meaning, or point; silly, insipid		
	Synonyms >>	banal, flat, jejune, vapid		Antonym >>	pertinent; intelligent; significant
	Your comments are inane and are preventing the discussion of the main topic.				
	Derivatives >>	inanely, inanity, inanition			
17.	indolence	IN duh luns	laziness		
	Synonyms >>	slothfulness		Antonym >>	industriousness
	The hot and humid weather in the tropics encourages indolence.				
	Derivatives >>	indolent, indolency, indolently			
18.	infallible	in FAL uh bul	incapable of error		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	erroneous; fallacious
	Since everyone makes mistakes, no human is infallible.				
	Derivatives >>	infallibilism, infallibilist, infallibility, infallibleness, infallibly			
19.	inscrutable	in SKROO tuh bul	difficult to understand; mysterious		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	clear; readable; understandable
	He had us all confused with his inscrutable smile.				
	Derivatives >>	inscrutableness, inscrutably, inscrutability			
20.	languid	LANG gwid	slow, sluggish, listless, weak		
	Synonyms >>	lethargic, stuporous, torpid		Antonym >>	animated
	The old man's walk was languid, each pace requiring great effort.				
	Derivatives >>	languidly, languidness, languish, languisher, languishing, languishment			
21.	malice	MAL is	desire to harm others		
	Synonyms >>	malevolence, malignity, spite, spleen		Antonym >>	concern
	His death was caused by malice and was not accidental.				
	Derivatives >>	maliceful, malicious, maliciously, maliciousness			
22.	oblique	uh BLEEK	slanting, indirect, evasive, devious, misleading		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	direct
	Because of the suspect's oblique answers, our interrogation of him led us in the wrong direction.				
	Derivatives >>	obliquate, obliquation, obliquely, obliqueness, obliquely			
23.	opulence	OP yuh luns	wealth, affluence, abundance		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	meagerness, scarcity
	Until the recent decline in the price of oil, the Hunt name was synonymous with opulence.				
	Derivatives >>	opulent, opulently			
24.	penitent	PEN eh tunt	showing or feeling regret for wrongdoing, repentant		
	Synonyms >>	compunctual, contrite, remorseful		Antonym >>	unrepentant
	He became penitent when he realized that his prank resulted in serious injury.				
	Derivatives >>	penitence, penitency, penitential			
25.	perfunctory	pur FUNGK tuh ree	acting routinely with little interest or care		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	concerned; diligent
	Due to his perfunctory manner of inspecting the factory, he did not notice some serious problems.				
	Derivatives >>	perfunctorily, perfunctoriness, perfunctorious, perfunctoriously			

Lesson 5

Matching Test



Directions: Choose the definition that best matches the meaning of the vocabulary word. Place the answer of your choice in the space provided.

Exercise A

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|---------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | acrimonious | a. | to make clear; to explain |
| _____ | 2. | ameliorate | b. | to coax by flattery |
| _____ | 3. | amenable | c. | shapeless |
| _____ | 4. | amorphous | d. | caustic; bitter (language) |
| _____ | 5. | buoyant | e. | to erase; to wipe out |
| _____ | 6. | cajole | f. | to reduce in dignity or quality |
| _____ | 7. | calamity | g. | willing; tractable; malleable |
| _____ | 8. | debase | h. | short-lived; temporary |
| _____ | 9. | efface | i. | difficult to understand |
| _____ | 10. | elucidate | j. | able to float |
| _____ | 11. | ephemeral | k. | to make better; to improve |
| _____ | 12. | inscrutable | l. | serious event causing distress |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | ferocity | a. | mechanical; indifferent |
| _____ | 2. | flourish | b. | silly; meaningless; insipid |
| _____ | 3. | haughty | c. | savage behavior |
| _____ | 4. | impervious | d. | laziness |
| _____ | 5. | inane | e. | desire to harm others |
| _____ | 6. | indolence | f. | slanting; indirect; evasive |
| _____ | 7. | infallible | g. | not affected; impenetrable |
| _____ | 8. | languid | h. | wealth; affluence; abundance |
| _____ | 9. | malice | i. | tired; sluggish |
| _____ | 10. | oblique | j. | repentant |
| _____ | 11. | opulence | k. | incapable of error |
| _____ | 12. | penitent | l. | disdainful; proud; vain |
| _____ | 13. | perfunctory | m. | to prosper; to thrive |

Lesson 5

Sentence Completion

acrimonious	ameliorate	amenable	amorphous
buoyant	cajole	calamity	debase
efface	elucidate	ferocity	inscrutable

1. In the early Puritan days of this country, the scaffold was used to publicly humiliate and _____ a person.
2. My teacher expected me to _____ the point and to make the thesis clear in my essay.
3. The _____ passage was mysterious and difficult to understand.
4. The governor tried to _____ the conditions that had caused inflation to soar.
5. Because constant handling will eventually _____ the intricate designs of the sculpture, the owner has placed it in a protective glass case.
6. The child tried to _____ his mother into giving him another piece of candy; she was frequently unable to stand up to his persuasion.
7. The students were _____ to listening to the unbiased and usually helpful ideas of their teacher; they enjoyed what he had to say.
8. Even though water was leaking in at an alarming rate, the vessel surprisingly remained _____.
9. In the science fiction movie, the _____ mass terrorized the town; the giant amoeba consumed whatever it encircled.
10. During the war some of the prisoners fought with the _____ of wild animals.
11. The routing of the highway was a _____ to the unique inn; it was disastrous to the old-world charm which had made the inn so quaint.
12. The ex-spouses seldom talked to each other, and when they did, they used caustic, _____ language that expressed their anger.

Lesson 5



ephemeral	flourish	haughty	impervious	inane
indolence	infallible	languid	malice	oblique
opulence	penitent	perfunctory		

13. Evasive, devious and misleading, her testimony was _____, full of answers that sought not to inform, but to deceive.
14. They once thought that their leader was _____, but they soon learned that he, too, made mistakes.
15. The queen lived in incredible _____, even drinking from an ornate, golden cup.
16. Like me, she seemed _____ to his rude comments; I always treat such remarks with disdain and contempt and try to remain unaffected by them.
17. Her business was beginning to _____ under the direction of the new manager, showing a profit for the first time in ten years.
18. After being elected class president, Sally became _____ and arrogant; suddenly she seemed to consider everyone else beneath her.
19. Because of his _____ examination of the machine, he did not see the loose bolt. Had he been more concerned, he would have looked more closely.
20. The man's _____ tone sounded like an old, weary traveler looking for a resting place.
21. Because some of my writing has occasionally been meaningless, my teacher now considers all of it to be _____.
22. His _____ toward his ex-wife was shown in his attempt to murder her.
23. His _____ on the job led to his being fired; had he not been so lazy, he would have remained employed.
24. Only after he had become truly _____ was he able to ask for forgiveness.
25. Her _____ mood of generosity was short-lived; she quickly reverted to her normal greedy behavior.