

Lesson 2

Definitions



1.	antithesis	an TI thuh sis	a direct opposite, a contrast
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> duplicate; same
	Good is the antithesis of evil.		
	Derivatives >>	antithetic, antithetical, antithetically	
2.	ascend	uh SEND	to move upward, to rise from a lower station
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to descend; to go down
	The climbers ascended the mountain.		
	Derivatives >>	ascendancy, ascendancy, ascendant, ascension, ascending, ascended	
3.	austere	aw STEER	strict, stern; unadorned, ascetic
	Synonyms >>	severe	Antonym >> indulgent
	Pioneers usually led an austere existence.		
	Derivatives >>	austereness, austereity, austerity	
4.	autonomous	aw TON uh muhs	independent, self-contained
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> dependent
	One who is autonomous needs no help from others.		
	Derivatives >>	autonomic, autonomously, autonomy, autonomist	
5.	banal	BANE ul, buh NAL	common, ordinary, lacking freshness, hackneyed
	Synonyms >>	inane, insipid, jejune, vapid	Antonym >> fresh, unique, extraordinary
	Because of his use of overused trite remarks, his speeches are banal.		
	Derivatives >>	banality, banally	
6.	benign	buh NINE	not causing harm, of gentle disposition, beneficial
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> malignant, harmful
	The minister was loved because of his benign attitude toward all types of people.		
	Derivatives >>	benignly, benignant, benignancy, benignantly, benignity	
7.	capricious	kuh PRISH us	changing suddenly, fickle
	Synonyms >>	inconstant, mercurial, unstable	Antonym >> stable
	Her capricious moods are difficult to anticipate.		
	Derivatives >>	caprice, capriciously, capriciousness	
8.	dawdle	DOD ul	to waste time, to spend time idly, to move in a lackadaisical manner
	Synonyms >>	dally, loiter, procrastinate	Antonym >> to rush
	Since we have a deadline, do not dawdle over your work.		
	Derivatives >>	dawdled, dawdling	
9.	defamation	def uh MAY shun	act of harming or ruining another's reputation
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> adulation
	The defamation of another's character is a horrible thing.		
	Derivatives >>	defamatory, defame, defamed, defamer, defamingly	
10.	esoteric	es uh TER ik	understood only by a small group or a select few
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> obvious
	The English teachers were having an esoteric discussion about the correct usage of some obscure word.		
	Derivatives >>	esoterical, esoterically, esotericism, esotericist, esoterism, esotery	
11.	exacerbate	ig ZAS ur bate	to aggravate, to irritate, to vex
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to ameliorate; to soothe
	You will only exacerbate the situation if you try to call her.		
	Derivatives >>	exacerbatingly, exacerbation	

12.	extol	ik STOLE	to praise, to glorify	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	to defame
	The teacher would always extol students who tried to do their best.			
	Derivatives >>	extolled, extolling, extollingly, extollment, extoller		
13.	fastidious	fa STID ee us	reflecting a meticulous or demanding attitude, critical to an extreme	
	Synonyms >>	finicky	Antonym >>	not meticulous
	He considered her fastidious because she was offended by insignificant mistakes or errors.			
	Derivatives >>	fastidiously, fastidiousness, fastidium		
14.	furtive	FUR tiv	secret in an underhanded way, stealthy	
	Synonyms >>	clandestine, covert, stealthy, surreptitious, underhanded	Antonym >>	bold
	During the test, he made some furtive glances at other classmates' papers.			
	Derivatives >>	furtively, furtiveness		
15.	gregarious	greh GAR ee us	sociable and outgoing	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	shy; reserved
	He became much more gregarious after he developed an interest in girls.			
	Derivatives >>	gregariously, gregariousness		
16.	hypocrite	HIP uh krit	one who is insincere or deceitful	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	sincere person
	Saying one thing and then doing the other is the mark of a hypocrite.			
	Derivatives >>	hypocrites, hypocritical, hypocritically, hypocritical, hypocrisy		
17.	innate	eh NATE	existing from birth, inborn	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	learned
	He has innate athletic talents that cannot be taught.			
	Derivatives >>	innated, innately, innateness, innatism, innative		
18.	lethargic	luh THAR jik	sluggish, languid	
	Synonyms >>	stuporous, torpid	Antonym >>	energetic
	Having had too much to drink, he was very lethargic the morning after the party.			
	Derivatives >>	lethargically, lethargize, lethargy		
19.	melancholy	MEL un kol ee	depression of spirits	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	happiness
	After Dad lost his job, he fell into a state of melancholy.			
	Derivatives >>	melancholia, melancholic, melancholiac, melancholically, melancholily, melancholiness, melancholious		
20.	opaque	oh PAKE	not allowing the passage of light, not transparent; hard to understand	
	Synonyms >>	dark	Antonym >>	transparent
	I am going to place something opaque in the window so that no one will be able to see into this room.			
	Derivatives >>	opaquely, opaqueness, opaquer		
21.	prolific	pro LIF ik	abundantly fruitful, marked by great productivity	
	Synonyms >>	fecund, fertile	Antonym >>	barren; unfruitful
	Since he has written a great number of books in a short period, Stephen King is known as a prolific writer.			
	Derivatives >>	proliferation, proliferate, proliferative, proliferous, proliferously		
22.	reprove	reh PROOV	to scold or to rebuke for a misdeed usually with kindly intent	
	Synonyms >>	admonish, castigate, chastise, chide, rebuke, reproach	Antonym >>	to approve; to applaud
	A teacher sometimes needs to reprove a student for talking during class.			
	Derivatives >>	reprovable, reprovingly, reproving, reproved, reproves, reproof		
23.	symmetry	SIM eh tree	balanced proportions	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	lack of balance
	The symmetry of the gardens of Versailles creates a beautiful and balanced atmosphere.			
	Derivatives >>	symmetrical, symmetric, symmetrically, symmetricalness, symmetrization, symmetrize		
24.	tranquil	TRANG kwul	peaceful, calm	
	Synonyms >>	placid, serene	Antonym >>	agitated
	Weather in Texas can quickly change from tranquil to turbulent.			
	Derivatives >>	tranquilization, tranquilize, tranquility, tranquillness, tranquilizer		
25.	venerate	VEN uh rate	to honor, to revere	
	Synonyms >>	adore, worship	Antonym >>	
	Although I did not always agree with President Kennedy, I venerate his memory.			
	Derivatives >>	veneration, venerational, venerator, venerable, venerability		

Lesson 2

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. | antithesis | a. | direct opposite; contrast |
| _____ | 2. | ascend | b. | changeable; erratic; fickle |
| _____ | 3. | austere | c. | to go up; to rise |
| _____ | 4. | autonomous | d. | ruining of another's reputation |
| _____ | 5. | banal | e. | stern; unyielding; ascetic |
| _____ | 6. | benign | f. | to praise; to glorify |
| _____ | 7. | capricious | g. | insipid; dull; trite; ordinary |
| _____ | 8. | dawdle | h. | to embitter; to aggravate |
| _____ | 9. | defamation | i. | to waste time; to spend time idly |
| _____ | 10. | esoteric | j. | independent; self-contained |
| _____ | 11. | exacerbate | k. | beneficial; kind; gentle |
| _____ | 12. | extol | l. | understood only by a select few |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------------|----|------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | fastidious | a. | slow; tired; sluggish; listless |
| _____ | 2. | furtive | b. | not transparent; dull; dark |
| _____ | 3. | gregarious | c. | peaceful; calm |
| _____ | 4. | hypocrite | d. | existing from birth; inborn |
| _____ | 5. | innate | e. | one who is insincere |
| _____ | 6. | lethargic | f. | liking to gather in groups; social |
| _____ | 7. | melancholy | g. | surreptitious; secret; sneaky |
| _____ | 8. | opaque | h. | particular; hard to please |
| _____ | 9. | prolific | i. | to honor; to revere |
| _____ | 10. | reprove | j. | balanced proportions |
| _____ | 11. | symmetry | k. | depression of spirits |
| _____ | 12. | tranquil | l. | to scold or to rebuke |
| _____ | 13. | venerate | m. | fruitful; producing many young |

Lesson 2

Sentence Completion



antithesis	ascend	austere	autonomous
banal	benign	capricious	dawdle
defamation	esoteric	exacerbate	extolled

- The woman is suing the magazine for _____ of character because she thinks that their comments have ruined her reputation.
- After her superb performance, the critics _____ her wonderful work; among the many things they praised was her sensitivity.
- The woman was happy to learn that the tumor was _____ and would not cause her harm.
- The _____ life of a monk does not provide for luxury items.
- It was difficult to get the _____ girl to settle down and stay on one topic; her subjects of conversation changed as rapidly as her moods.
- The skillful mountain climbers were not afraid to _____ the towering cliff which hovered above them.
- The essay was marred by _____ comments that had already been made by thousands of uncreative students.
- Only those who go through initiation ceremonies of the cult understand the meaning of their _____ vows.
- You will only _____ the situation if you call her again; she has been aggravated enough.
- The boss of the company does not allow his employees to _____; he expects them to work quickly and efficiently.
- It was extremely unusual to see identical twins so vastly different; one seemed to be the very _____ of the other in every regard except appearance.
- The citizens of the small village longed to be _____, fully independent and self-contained.

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fastidious	furtive	gregarious	hypocrite	innate
lethargic	melancholy	opaque	prolific	reprove
symmetry	tranquil	venerate		

13. My younger sister has always been insincere; therefore, I feel justified in calling her a _____.
14. We feared that our peaceful, _____ valley would soon be ravaged by war.
15. Despite the overpowering sound of the bell, there was an _____ and natural tranquility about the church.
16. The woman sang a _____ song at the funeral.
17. There was a curious kind of _____ in the painting; each side seemed to be the mirror image of the other.
18. The woman's _____ housekeeping caused her family much discomfort; if they left anything out of place she became unreasonable.
19. The _____ child could hardly keep his eyes open during the class; he was obviously lacking in energy.
20. The student was not able to hide his _____ glances at another child's paper; consequently, he received a zero on the test.
21. The boys tried to peek through the _____ window, but they could see nothing.
22. The man was hailed as one of the most _____ writers of his time; he produced six complete novels in one year.
23. The _____ boy was always the life of the party; he enjoyed being around large groups of people and would visit with everyone, even people he did not know.
24. His laziness led to a reduction in productivity, and eventually his boss had to _____ him for being so lazy.
25. Because I _____ the memory of my father, I would never say bad things about him; I still honor him, even after his death.