

# Lesson 3

## Definitions



|     |                                                                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.  | <b>abstruse</b>                                                                                        | ab STRUSE                                                                                   | difficult to understand, recondite, concealed                       |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | complex, complicated, intricate, knotty                                                     | Antonym >>                                                          | readily understood; clear |
|     | Some concepts of Einstein were so abstruse that many physicists could not understand them.             |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | abstrusely, abstruseness                                                                    |                                                                     |                           |
| 2.  | <b>affable</b>                                                                                         | AF uh bul                                                                                   | friendly, courteous, amiable                                        |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | cordial, genial, gracious, sociable                                                         | Antonym >>                                                          | surly; aloof; unfriendly  |
|     | He had a very affable nature, always saying "Hello" to everyone.                                       |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | affability, affableness, affably                                                            |                                                                     |                           |
| 3.  | <b>audacity</b>                                                                                        | aw DAS uh tee                                                                               | excessive boldness, rashness, daring                                |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | cheek, chutzpah, effrontery, gall, hardihood, temerity                                      | Antonym >>                                                          | meekness                  |
|     | I was surprised that he had the audacity to approach the Queen.                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | audacious, audaciousness, audaciously                                                       |                                                                     |                           |
| 4.  | <b>contrite</b>                                                                                        | kun TRITE                                                                                   | extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant                         |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | penitent                                                                                    | Antonym >>                                                          | unrepentant               |
|     | Her contrite tears were not enough to convince her father not to spank her for her disobedience.       |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | contritely, contriteness, contrition                                                        |                                                                     |                           |
| 5.  | <b>credulous</b>                                                                                       | KREJ uh lus                                                                                 | believing on slight evidence, gullible                              |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            |                                                                                             | Antonym >>                                                          | suspicious                |
|     | Because the lady's horoscope said that she should stay inside, the credulous woman did not go to work. |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | credulously, credulousness, credulity                                                       |                                                                     |                           |
| 6.  | <b>depravity</b>                                                                                       | deh PRAV eh tee                                                                             | moral corruption, a wicked or perverse act                          |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | abasement, corruption, debasement, debauchery,                                              | Antonym >>                                                          | noble behavior            |
|     | The depravity of his behavior shocked everyone.                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | deprave, depraver, depravement, depraved                                                    |                                                                     |                           |
| 7.  | <b>deprecate</b>                                                                                       | DEP ruh kate                                                                                | to disapprove regretfully, to belittle, to express mild disapproval |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            |                                                                                             | Antonym >>                                                          | to endorse                |
|     | Do not deprecate her act unless you fully understand her situation.                                    |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | depracting, deprecatingly, deprecative, deprecatively, deprecatory, deprecated, deprecating |                                                                     |                           |
| 8.  | <b>didactic</b>                                                                                        | die DAK tik                                                                                 | instructive, designed to teach                                      |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            |                                                                                             | Antonym >>                                                          | uninstructive             |
|     | Because of the coach's didactic approach, his players learned many blocking techniques.                |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | didactical, didacticism, didactive, didactically                                            |                                                                     |                           |
| 9.  | <b>dormant</b>                                                                                         | DOR munt                                                                                    | inactive, sleeping                                                  |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | abeyant, latent, quiescent                                                                  | Antonym >>                                                          | active                    |
|     | Most flowers remain dormant in the winter and bloom in the spring.                                     |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | dormancy                                                                                    |                                                                     |                           |
| 10. | <b>enigmatic</b>                                                                                       | en ig MAT ik                                                                                | mysterious, inexplicable, puzzling                                  |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            | abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, equivocal, obscure,                                           | Antonym >>                                                          | clear                     |
|     | The disappearance of Amelia Earhart is an enigma to this day.                                          |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | enigma, enigmatical, enigmatically, enigmatize                                              |                                                                     |                           |
| 11. | <b>erudite</b>                                                                                         | ER yoo dite                                                                                 | scholarly                                                           |                           |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                            |                                                                                             | Antonym >>                                                          | ignorant                  |
|     | The erudite physics professor had spent many years studying the theory of relativity.                  |                                                                                             |                                                                     |                           |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                         | eruditely, erudition                                                                        |                                                                     |                           |

|     |                                                                                                      |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 12. | <b>exotic</b>                                                                                        | ig ZOT ik                                                                          | foreign, unfamiliar                                                          |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              | Antonym >> | native                      |
|     | The circus features exotic animals from Africa.                                                      |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | exotical, exoticalness, exotically, exotica, exoticism, exoticist                  |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 13. | <b>fuse</b>                                                                                          | FYOOZ                                                                              | to mix or to join (usually by melting)                                       |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | amalgamate, blend, coalesce, commingle, merge, mingle                              |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to divide                   |
|     | Zinc and copper can be fused into hard, bright brass.                                                |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | fused, fusing, fuses, fusibility, fusible                                          |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 14. | <b>immutable</b>                                                                                     | eh MYOO tuh bul                                                                    | unchanging                                                                   |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              | Antonym >> | fickle                      |
|     | Her love for her husband was immutable.                                                              |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | immutability, immutableness, immutably                                             |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 15. | <b>incorrigible</b>                                                                                  | in KOR eh juh bul                                                                  | incapable of being reformed or improved                                      |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              | Antonym >> | amenable to improvement     |
|     | He was expelled from school because of his incorrigible conduct.                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | incorrigibility, incorrigibleness, incorrigibly                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 16. | <b>loathe</b>                                                                                        | LOETH                                                                              | to detest                                                                    |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | abhor, abominate                                                                   |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to adore                    |
|     | The fact that I loathe your brother does not mean that we cannot be friends.                         |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | loathful, loathing, loathingly, loathness, loathsome                               |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 17. | <b>mitigate</b>                                                                                      | MIT uh gate                                                                        | to cause to become less harsh or hostile; to make less severe                |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | allay, alleviate, assuage, lighten                                                 |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to intensify; to aggravate  |
|     | He apologized in order to mitigate her dislike for him.                                              |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | mitigation, mitigatedly, mitigative, mitigator, mitigatory                         |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 18. | <b>nullify</b>                                                                                       | NUL eh fie                                                                         | to cause not to be in effect, to negate                                      |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | abrogate, annul, invalidate                                                        |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to make effective           |
|     | I am seeking to nullify the contract because he has not complied with it.                            |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | nullified, nullifying, nullification, nullificationist, nullificator, nullifier    |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 19. | <b>pacifistic</b>                                                                                    | pas uh FIS tik                                                                     | opposed to war or use of force                                               |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | appeased, conciliated, mollified, placated, propitiated                            |                                                                              | Antonym >> | martial                     |
|     | The man refused to fight because of his pacifistic beliefs.                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | pacifist, pacifier, pacifism, pacifistically, pacify                               |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 20. | <b>pretentious</b>                                                                                   | preh TEN shus                                                                      | making an extravagant outward show, self-important                           |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | ostentatious, pompous                                                              |                                                                              | Antonym >> | meek; humble; shy           |
|     | Isn't it a little pretentious to spend two million dollars on a wedding?                             |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | pretension, pretention, pretensionless, pretensive, pretentiously, pretentiousness |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 21. | <b>prologue</b>                                                                                      | PRO log                                                                            | introductory remarks in a speech, play or literary work, introductory action |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              | Antonym >> |                             |
|     | The play had a prologue that set the scene for the opening act.                                      |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | prologist, prologize                                                               |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 22. | <b>recant</b>                                                                                        | reh KANT                                                                           | to withdraw or to repudiate a statement or belief, revoke                    |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | abjure, forswear, renounce, retract                                                |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to avow; to reaffirm belief |
|     | The prosecutor's case was greatly weakened when his main witness recanted his testimony.             |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | recantation, recanter                                                              |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 23. | <b>servile</b>                                                                                       | SUR vil, SUR vile                                                                  | overly submissive                                                            |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | obsequious, slavish, subservient                                                   |                                                                              | Antonym >> | authoritative               |
|     | Having complete devotion and submissiveness for the sheik, the women of the harem were very servile. |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | servilely, servilism, servility, servitude                                         |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 24. | <b>trepidation</b>                                                                                   | trep eh DAY shun                                                                   | fear, trembling, agitation                                                   |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                              | Antonym >> | fearlessness                |
|     | Since I did not have time to study, I have a lot of trepidation about this examination.              |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | trepidate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity                                  |                                                                              |            |                             |
| 25. | <b>vilify</b>                                                                                        | VIL eh fie                                                                         | to malign, to defame, to utter abusive statements against                    |            |                             |
|     | Synonyms >>                                                                                          | asperse, calumniate, denigrate, traduce                                            |                                                                              | Antonym >> | to praise; to acclaim       |
|     | It is not right to vilify someone just because he disagrees with you.                                |                                                                                    |                                                                              |            |                             |
|     | Derivatives >>                                                                                       | vilification, vilifier, vilifying, vilifyingly                                     |                                                                              |            |                             |

## Lesson 3

### 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.  | abstruse  | a. | to mix or to join by melting        |
| _____ | 2.  | affable   | b. | instructive; intended to teach      |
| _____ | 3.  | audacity  | c. | friendly; amiable; courteous        |
| _____ | 4.  | contrite  | d. | believing on slight proof           |
| _____ | 5.  | credulous | e. | to belittle; to express disapproval |
| _____ | 6.  | depravity | f. | deeply apologetic; repentant        |
| _____ | 7.  | deprecate | g. | scholarly; learned                  |
| _____ | 8.  | didactic  | h. | corrupt nature; wickedness          |
| _____ | 9.  | dormant   | i. | difficult to understand             |
| _____ | 10. | erudite   | j. | foreign; unfamiliar                 |
| _____ | 11. | exotic    | k. | inactive; sleeping                  |
| _____ | 12. | fuse      | l. | boldness; daring spirit; effrontery |

### Exercise B

- |       |     |              |    |                                |
|-------|-----|--------------|----|--------------------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | enigmatic    | a. | obscure; mysterious            |
| _____ | 2.  | immutable    | b. | to make less severe            |
| _____ | 3.  | incorrigible | c. | to revoke; to disavow          |
| _____ | 4.  | loathe       | d. | unchanging; permanent          |
| _____ | 5.  | mitigate     | e. | to void, negate, or invalidate |
| _____ | 6.  | nullify      | f. | overly submissive; slavish     |
| _____ | 7.  | pacifistic   | g. | to detest; to abhor; to hate   |
| _____ | 8.  | pretentious  | h. | anxiety; nervous anticipation  |
| _____ | 9.  | prologue     | i. | incapable of being reformed    |
| _____ | 10. | recant       | j. | opposed to war or use of force |
| _____ | 11. | servile      | k. | introductory action            |
| _____ | 12. | trepidation  | l. | to defame; to slander          |
| _____ | 13. | vilify       | m. | pompous; ostentatious; showy   |

## Lesson 3

### Sentence Completion



|           |           |            |          |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| abstruse  | affable   | audacity   | contrite |
| credulous | depravity | deprecates | didactic |
| dormant   | erudite   | exotic     | fuse     |

- My younger brother was always bold and daring; many times he had the \_\_\_\_\_ to talk back to my parents.
- Because the student had been voted the most scholarly in his class, the \_\_\_\_\_ language in his speech was not a surprise.
- The girl's father approves of her desire to sing, but he \_\_\_\_\_ her willingness to sing in nightclubs.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ look on the woman's face betrayed her gullibility; she had a tendency to believe everything she heard.
- The girl's \_\_\_\_\_ personality resulted in her being voted friendliest in her class.
- The man has lost so many of his morals that he has fallen into a state of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The woman's \_\_\_\_\_ expression convinced her husband that she was sorry for her harsh words.
- Most flowers remain \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter and bloom in the spring.
- With his skilled hands, the silversmith began to \_\_\_\_\_ the two pieces of metal into one beautiful shape.
- The book was so \_\_\_\_\_ that after he had finished the first difficult chapter, he understood less than when he had begun.
- The furniture salesman bragged that only \_\_\_\_\_ woods from foreign lands were used in making the fine item that he was selling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ poems are especially interesting in that they often teach a moral as well as entertain.

## Lesson 3



|           |             |              |          |          |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| enigmatic | immutable   | incorrigible | loathe   | mitigate |
| nullify   | pacifistic  | pretentious  | prologue | recant   |
| servile   | trepidation | vilify       |          |          |

13. While younger men are often belligerent, older and wiser men may set aside these war-like attitudes for a more \_\_\_\_\_ outlook.
14. The first fight in the valley was but a \_\_\_\_\_ to one hundred years of war.
15. Just because I \_\_\_\_\_ spinach does not mean I hate all vegetables.
16. Because he was incapable of being reformed, the boy's \_\_\_\_\_ conduct could not be tolerated any longer.
17. His driving an extravagant and showy car does not mean that he is a \_\_\_\_\_ person.
18. I am seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ the contract since he has not adhered to the terms upon which we agreed.
19. The submissiveness of the woman was easy to detect in her \_\_\_\_\_ manner.
20. When the publisher discovered his error, he was anxious to \_\_\_\_\_ his previous statement.
21. The man's \_\_\_\_\_ faith in God could not be shaken; he was firm in his convictions.
22. Because the woman was so angry at what the man had said, she directed her anger at him and immediately began to \_\_\_\_\_ him in all her circles of friends.
23. I experienced great \_\_\_\_\_ because we were isolated in a cabin during the snowstorm, and we had only a small portion of food; I was afraid we would starve before being rescued.
24. The lawyer was hoping the court would \_\_\_\_\_ the original sentence, but the judge seemed totally uninterested in lessening the prison term he had set.
25. The \_\_\_\_\_ oaths in the ceremony were a mystery to everyone outside the brotherhood.