

Lesson 15

Definitions



1.	abate	uh BAYT	to reduce in intensity or amount
	Synonyms >>	decrease, diminish, dwindle, ebb, lessen, reduce, wane	Antonym >> to increase
	The flood waters abated after forty days of rain.		
	Derivatives >>	abatable, abater, abatement, abated, abating	
2.	antecedent	an tuh SEE dunt	preceding a cause
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> following; later
	The argument between the two men was antecedent to the fight which followed.		
	Derivatives >>	antecedence, antecedency, antecede, antecedently	
3.	arid	AIR id	very dry
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> moist
	The desert is an arid place.		
	Derivatives >>	aridity, aridness, aridly	
4.	baneful	BANE ful	a source of harm or destruction; harmful, destructive
	Synonyms >>	deleterious, detrimental, noxious, pernicious	Antonym >> benign influence; harmless
	Overeating was the bane of her existence. The baneful herbs made the woman extremely ill.		
	Derivatives >>	baneful, banefully, banefulness	
5.	beleaguer	buh LEEG er	to harass
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to shield from
	The scandal caused the President to be beleaguered by the press.		
	Derivatives >>	beleaguered, beleaguerer	
6.	contempt	kun TEMPT	scorn, extreme dislike or disdain
	Synonyms >>	despicableness, pitiableness, scurviness	Antonym >> respect
	The man treated the gossiping woman with contempt; talking about other people was beneath his dignity.		
	Derivatives >>	contemptible, contemptuous	
7.	cynical	SIN uh kul	given to faultfinding, sneering, and sarcasm; exhibiting mocking disbelief
	Synonyms >>	misanthropic, pessimistic, misogynic	Antonym >>
	Some people are so cynical they sneer at everything that would make life worthwhile.		
	Derivatives >>	cynic, cynically, cynicism	
8.	dexterous	DEK struss	skillful and active with the hands; manually adroit and skillful
	Synonyms >>	deft, handy	Antonym >> clumsy
	The machine shop advertised for a dexterous worker.		
	Derivatives >>	dexterity, dexterously, dexterousness, dextral	
9.	dour	DOUR, DOW ur	sullen, stern, harsh
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> cheerful in appearance
	His dour behavior was caused by the rain washing out his golf game.		
	Derivatives >>	dourly, dourer, dourest	
10.	exalt	ig ZALT	to glorify, to praise, to raise in rank
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to defame; to deprecate
	The woman was exalted for her successes in the field of science.		
	Derivatives >>	exalted, exalting, exalts, exaltation, exaltingly, exaltedness, exalter	
11.	felicitous	feh LIS eh tus	happy or delightful
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sad; gloomy; morose
	Her marriage was a felicitous occasion.		
	Derivatives >>	felicitate, felicitic, felicitation, felicitously, felicitousness, felicity	

12.	impeccable	im PEK uh bul	free from fault or blame
	Synonyms >>	flawless, irreproachable	Antonym >> flawed
	She was a woman of impeccable character and could not be blamed for the smallest wrongdoing.		
	Derivatives >>	impeccability, impeccableness, impeccably	
13.	imperturbable	im pur TUR buh bul	marked by extreme calm, impassivity, assurance and steadiness
	Synonyms >>	composed, collected, cool, unruffled, nonchalant	Antonym >> frantic
	Before the accident he seemed imperturbable, but now he is becoming frantic.		
	Derivatives >>	imperturbability, imperturbableness, imperturbably, imperturbation, imperturbed	
14.	malleable	MAL ee uh bul	capable of being shaped, influenced, or altered; tractable
	Synonyms >>	plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile	Antonym >> unpliable
	Gold is a malleable metal.		
	Derivatives >>	malleability, malleabilization, malleableize, malleableness	
15.	mortify	MORE tuh fie	to humiliate, to wound pride, to experience shame
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to calm; to soothe
	It would simply mortify me to have someone say such shameful things about my family.		
	Derivatives >>	mortifyingly, mortifier, mortified, mortifiedly, mortification	
16.	obdurate	OB doo rit	extremely stubborn, unwilling to accept advice
	Synonyms >>	inflexible, inexorable, adamant	Antonym >> tractable
	She was obdurate in her refusal to listen to our concerns about her cocaine problem.		
	Derivatives >>	obdurately, obdurateness, obduration, obdure, obduracy	
17.	platitude	PLAT eh tood	trite remark, banal statement
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> profundity
	That politician can spout platitudes, but he has never passed a bill that has substance.		
	Derivatives >>	platitudinal, platitudinarian, platitudinize, platitudinous, platitudinously	
18.	profligate	PROF luh git	a wasteful person; extremely wasteful, given to licentiousness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> thrifty
	The profligate son wasted the family fortune on wine, women, and song.		
	Derivatives >>	profligacy, profligated, profligately, profligateness	
19.	pugnacious	pug NAY shus	looking for a fight, combative, belligerent
	Synonyms >>	bellicose, contentious, quarrelsome	Antonym >> peaceful
	There are many pugnacious punks at the high school that bully other students.		
	Derivatives >>	pugnaciously, pugnaciousness, pugnacity	
20.	savory	SAY vuh ree	appetizing
	Synonyms >>	palatable, toothsome	Antonym >> unappetizing
	My mother is known for her savory meals.		
	Derivatives >>	savor, savored, savorer, savorily, savoriness, savoringly, savorous, savorsome	
21.	spurn	SPURN	to reject or to refuse with hostility
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to embrace
	The woman had always viewed the man with disdain and would spurn his attempts at friendship forever.		
	Derivatives >>	spurner, spurned, spurning	
22.	supercilious	soo pur SIL ee us	haughty, vain and arrogant
	Synonyms >>	disdainful, high-handed, insolent, lordly	Antonym >> servile
	I do not like your arrogant and supercilious attitude toward poor people.		
	Derivatives >>	superciliously, superciliousness	
23.	trite	TRITE	overused, commonplace, hackneyed
	Synonyms >>	threadbare	Antonym >> unusual
	This essay is full of trite phrases; it needs a fresh approach, avoiding phrases so hackneyed and overused.		
	Derivatives >>	triter, tritest, tritely, triteness	
24.	vociferous	voe SIF ur us	clamorous; boisterous (suggests a vehement outcry)
	Synonyms >>	blatant, obstreperous, strident	Antonym >> quiet; subdued
	The rock crowd became vociferous in its anger when it was announced that the show was cancelled.		
	Derivatives >>	vociferator, vociferously, vociferousness	
25.	vulgarity	vul GAR eh tee	something offensive to good taste and refinement
	Synonyms >>	coarseness, grossness, obscenity, ribaldness	Antonym >> refinement
	She chose to ignore the vulgarity of his crude remark.		
	Derivatives >>	vulgar, vulgarian, vulgarism, vulgarization, vulgarize, vulgarizer	

Lesson 15

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. abate | | a. very dry |
| _____ | 2. antecedent | | b. skillful with the hands; deft |
| _____ | 3. arid | | c. harmful or destructive |
| _____ | 4. baneful | | d. to decrease; to subside |
| _____ | 5. beleaguer | | e. scorn; dislike; disdain |
| _____ | 6. contempt | | f. free from fault or blame |
| _____ | 7. cynical | | g. sullen; stern; harsh |
| _____ | 8. dexterous | | h. festive; wonderful; happy |
| _____ | 9. dour | | i. to harass or to surround |
| _____ | 10. exalt | | j. to glorify; to praise; to extol |
| _____ | 11. felicitous | | k. preceding; existing before |
| _____ | 12. impeccable | | l. given to faultfinding and sarcasm |

Exercise B

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|--|--|
| _____ | 1. imperturbable | | a. haughty; vain; arrogant |
| _____ | 2. malleable | | b. combative; belligerent |
| _____ | 3. mortify | | c. stubborn; obstinate |
| _____ | 4. obdurate | | d. extremely wasteful |
| _____ | 5. platitude | | e. something offensive |
| _____ | 6. profligate | | f. trite remark; banal statement |
| _____ | 7. pugnacious | | g. marked by extreme calm |
| _____ | 8. savory | | h. clamorous; boisterous |
| _____ | 9. spurn | | i. appetizing |
| _____ | 10. supercilious | | j. overused; hackneyed; ordinary |
| _____ | 11. trite | | k. to humiliate; to wound pride |
| _____ | 12. vociferous | | l. capable of being altered |
| _____ | 13. vulgarity | | m. to reject or to refuse with hostility |

Lesson 15

Sentence Completion



abate	antecedent	arid	baneful
beleaguered	contempt	cynical	dexterous
dour	exalt	felicitous	impeccable

1. The defendant believed his alibi was _____, so perfect that it would free him from blame, leaving him no need to worry.
2. The sarcastic, faultfinding student offered his peers nothing but _____ comments.
3. The clown's _____ left hand juggled three balls while his equally skillful right hand picked the spectator's pockets.
4. The officer wanted to _____ the soldier for his bravery; he enjoyed praising his men for good work.
5. Because it is so hot and dry, Death Valley is known as the most _____ region of the United States.
6. The _____ attitude of the girl was caused by a teacher's being harsh with her; she remained sullen for the entire day.
7. Homesteaders in the Old West were _____ during events like weddings; there were too few happy events in lives _____ by rampaging Indians and harassed by continual drought.
8. The decisions made _____ to the Supreme Court's ruling were independent of each other; however, those made afterward were all related.
9. The deadly spread of AIDS is a _____ epidemic plaguing the entire world.
10. The intensity of the storm began to _____; apparently the worst part was over.
11. The woman viewed the issue with hate and _____; because of her dislike, she would do anything in her power to change the situation.

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imperturbable	malleable	mortified	obdurate	platitudes
profligate	pugnacious	savory	spurn	supercilious
trite	vociferous	vulgarity		

12. The _____ child had to be expelled from school; he was embroiled in a different fight almost every day.
13. I do not like your arrogant and _____ attitude toward poor people.
14. I was looking forward to a _____ meal with an abundance of delicious desserts.
15. _____ are common sayings, yet even though they are _____ and overused, they can be a source of wisdom.
16. The defendant remained _____ throughout the trial; he had plenty of assurance that he would be found not guilty.
17. Some plastics are easily formed and _____ to even a child's molding, but most are hard and _____.
18. Deeply ashamed of the unadorned house in which I lived, I was _____ to have him come into my home.
19. The _____ wasted his money on a number of sins and vices.
20. Sam's childish behavior has caused his girlfriend to _____ him; she refuses to answer any of his calls.
21. The _____ mob resorted to _____ as it shouted obscenities and clamored for the prisoner's release.