Lesson 8
Definitions

1. acquiesce  AK wee es  to give in, to comply
   Synonyms >> accede, agree, assent, consent, subscribe  Antonym >> to object; to disagree
   I was so desperate that I had to acquiesce to his demands.
   Derivatives >> acquiescence, acquiescent, acquiescingly, acquiescently

2. affinity  uh FIN uh tee  a likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship
   Synonyms >> Antonym >> repulsion
   Having suffered himself, he felt an affinity for the homeless.
   Derivatives >> affinitive

3. blasphemous  BLAS fuh mus  irreverent, profane
   Synonyms >> Antonym >> sacred; reverent
   Telling that sacrilegious joke is blasphemous.
   Derivatives >> blaspheme, blasphemed, blaspheming, blaspemer, blasphemousness, blasphemously, blasphemy

4. buttress  BUH tris  a support or prop
   Synonyms >> Antonym >>
   Many cathedrals are supported by buttresses.
   Derivatives >> buttresses, buttressless

5. circumspect  SIR kum spekt  careful to consider consequences, cautious, prudent
   Synonyms >> chary, wary Antonym >> reckless; careless; indiscreet
   Her circumspect behavior left no doubts as to her integrity.
   Derivatives >> circumspectness, circumspectly, circumspection, circumspective

6. corroboration  kuh rob uh RAY shun  confirmation
   Synonyms >> authentication, substantiation, validation, verification Antonym >> refutation
   Fortunately, I had some corroboration for my whereabouts on the night of the crime.
   Derivatives >> corroborate, corroborated, corroborating, corroboratory, corroboratively, corroborator

7. deplete  deh PLETE  to use up gradually, to lessen in amount or value
   Synonyms >> Antonym >> to restore
   Our oil reserves have been depleted because of years of drilling and pumping.
   Derivatives >> depleted, depleting, depletion, depletive, depletal

8. despotic  deh SPOT ik  ruling oppressively and absolutely; tyrannical
   Synonyms >> Antonym >> ruling democratically
   Americans do not like despotic behavior.
   Derivatives >> despotic, despotically, despotism, despotist, despotize, despot

9. emaciated  eh MAY she ay tid  very thin (usually as a result of starvation), wasting away
   Synonyms >> Antonym >> fat; corpulent
   As a result of receiving little food, most prisoners of concentration camps become extremely emaciated.
   Derivatives >> emaciate, emaciation

10. empirical  em PEER eh kul  based on observation or experiment and not on theory
    Synonyms >> Antonym >> theoretical
    We need some empirical data to make our case solid.
    Derivatives >> empiric, empiricism, empiricist, empirics, empirism

11. extraneous  ik STRAY nee us  not essential or vital
    Synonyms >> Antonym >> essential
    The extraneous assignments left the student with little time for himself.
    Derivatives >> extraneously, extraneousness
12. **fallow**  \(F\text{AL ow}\)  
inactive, plowed but not sowed  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **active**

In order for land to be productive, it must lie fallow occasionally.

**Derivatives** >> fallowness

13. **homogeneous**  \(h\text{oe muh JEE nee us}\)  
of the same kind  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **heterogeneous**

To get the best results with this research, we need a homogeneous group of people to fill out the questionnaire.

**Derivatives** >> homogeneously, homogeneity

14. **hyperbole**  \(h\text{i PER buh lee}\)  
obvious exaggeration  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **understatement**

You have often heard the hyperbole "I've told you a million times;" it's an obvious exaggeration.

**Derivatives** >> hyperbolically, hyperbolical, hyperbolism

15. **incontrovertible**  \(i\text{n kon truh VUR tuh}\)  
disputable  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **disputable; arguable**

The district attorney was looking for incontrovertible evidence to prove that the accused arsonist burned the bank.

**Derivatives** >> incontrovertibly

16. **irascible**  \(u\text{h RAS uh bul}\)  
irritable, easily angered, cranky, cross  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **impassive; imperturbable**

Just about anything could set off his irascible temper.

**Derivatives** >> irascibleness, irascibly, irascibility

17. **laconic**  \(l\text{uh KON ik}\)  
using a minimum of words; concise to the point of seeming rude  
*Synonyms* >> compendious, concise, pithy, succinct, summary, terse  
*Antonym* >> **verbose**

After the loss, the coach's remarks were laconic.

**Derivatives** >> laconian, laconical, laconically, laconism

18. **magnanimity**  \(m\text{ag nuh NIM eh tee}\)  
having a lofty, generous, and courageous spirit  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **greed; stinginess**

The magnanimity of the king endeared him to his subjects.

**Derivatives** >> magnanimitous, magnanimously, magnanimousness

19. **obsequious**  \(u\text{b SEE kwee us}\)  
overly attentive, like a sycophant, servile  
*Synonyms* >> slavish, subservient  
*Antonym* >> **disinterested**

I believe that his obsequious behavior toward his grandmother is to ensure being included in the will.

**Derivatives** >> obsequence, obsequent, obsequious, obsequiously, obsequiousness, obsequity

20. **proliferation**  \(p\text{ro lih uH RAY shun}\)  
an increase in number, multiplication  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **decline; decrease**

Many are afraid of nuclear proliferation and the possibility that a terrorist country will explode a bomb.

**Derivatives** >> proliferate, proliferative, proliferous, proliferously, prolific

21. **scrupulous**  \(S\text{KROO pyuh lus}\)  
very principled, very careful and conscientious  
*Synonyms* >> meticulous, punctual  
*Antonym* >> unprincipled

The scrupulous police officer never took a bribe, and he ceaselessly tried to prevent crime.

**Derivatives** >> scruple, scrupulousness, scrupulously

22. **sublime**  \(s\text{uh BLIME}\)  
exalted, noble, uplifting  
*Synonyms* >> resplendent, superb  
*Antonym* >> **lack of enthusiasm**

The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music, and a beautiful setting, was simply sublime.

**Derivatives** >> sublimely, sublimeness, sublime

23. **surreptitious**  \(s\text{ur up TISH us}\)  
secret, clandestine, stealthy  
*Synonyms* >> covert, furtive, underhanded  
*Antonym* >> **aboveboard; in an open manner**

The Watergate burglars tried to attain information in a surreptitious manner.

**Derivatives** >> surreptitiously

24. **veracity**  \(v\text{uh RAS eh tee}\)  
devotion to the truth  
*Synonyms* >> truthfulness, accuracy, correctness  
*Antonym* >> **lack of enthusiasm**

The lawyer had no confidence in the veracity of the witness.

**Derivatives** >> veracious, veraciously, veraciousness

25. **zeal**  \(Z\text{EEEL}\)  
enthusiasm, fervor  
*Synonyms* >>  
*Antonym* >> **lack of enthusiasm**

To the delight of his students, he brought great zeal to the teaching profession.

**Derivatives** >> zeals, zealless, zealot, zealotic, zealotism, zealotry
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. acquiesce
   a. irreverent; profane
2. affinity
   b. confirmation; proof
3. blasphemous
   c. wasted away; very thin
4. buttress
   d. to use up gradually; to lessen
5. circumspect
   e. based on observation
6. corroboration
   f. a support or prop
7. deplete
   g. lofty, generous spirit
8. despotic
   h. careful; cautious; prudent
9. emaciated
   i. truthfulness
10. empirical
    j. to give in; to comply; to agree
11. magnanimity
    k. tyrannical; autocratic
12. veracity
    l. a natural liking or affection

Exercise B

1. fallow
   a. obvious exaggeration
2. homogeneous
   b. enthusiasm; fervor
3. hyperbole
   c. very principled; moral
4. incontrovertible
   d. not essential or vital; extra
5. irascible
   e. of the same kind
6. laconic
   f. inactive; plowed but not sowed
7. extraneous
   g. increase in number
8. obsequious
   h. irritable; easily angered
9. proliferation
   i. lofty; noble; exalted
10. scrupulous
    j. overly attentive; servile
11. sublime
    k. secret; clandestine; stealthy
12. surreptitious
    l. concise; to the point; terse
13. zeal
    m. indisputable; cannot be argued
1. In the absence of ___________________________ evidence, evidence based on specific facts, we may have to theorize about the results of the data we have gathered.

2. None of the many parts were ___________________; if just one of the hundreds had been missing, the machine would not have worked.

3. The rich field had not been planted for two years; after this period of lying ______________________, the soil was even better than before.

4. However strong the _______________________ between two lovers, sometimes it is better for them to resist this attraction.

5. I depended upon my brother for _______________________ of my story to prove to my mother that I did not, in fact, break the vase.

6. Hitler’s _______________________ rule was brought to an end after World War II.

7. The man saw that he was losing the argument and decided to _______________________ to his opponent’s view.

8. The book was unjustly censured for containing what some people thought to be _______________________ remarks about the church.

9. The __________________prisoner of war was near death as a result of his lack of nourishment.

10. The woman was characterized by her _______ ________________ behavior after her divorce; she was hesitant to trust anyone again after having been hurt so badly.

11. If I continue to withdraw my money and not replace it, I will _______________________ my savings account in another month.

12. In order to destroy the building, the charges were set beside the _______________________; if the support could be destroyed, the wall would fall easily.
13. He loves to use exaggeration; his favorite __________________________ is “I’m so hungry, I could eat a horse.”

14. We tried to maintain _______________________ grouping in the class; it is easier to teach when everyone in the room is at the same level.

15. The president’s _______________________ speech was brief, but to the point.

16. The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music and a beautiful setting was simply _______________________.

17. Their _______________________ meetings could not be discovered; they had taken great care to keep them secret.

18. He approached the task with great _______________________, anxious to get the job done well.

19. The _______________________ of insects in the garden was uncontrollable; they had already destroyed most of the vegetables and were still multiplying.

20. The _______________________ child had absolutely no control over his temper and was always angry.

21. There was one man _______________________ enough to trust with the position; he alone had the integrity and the honesty to lead the people.

22. The waiter’s _______________________ manner ruined our meal; he would not leave us alone even for a minute because of his attentiveness.

23. Mother Theresa is known for her love and _______________________ toward the poor.

24. I do not doubt Tom’s _______________________, but I have some questions as to his brother’s devotion to the truth.

25. These facts are simply _______________________; they cannot be argued.