

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>_____ 1. abate</p> <p>_____ 2. antecedent</p> <p>_____ 3. arid</p> <p>_____ 4. baneful</p> <p>_____ 5. beleaguer</p> <p>_____ 6. contempt</p> <p>_____ 7. cynical</p> <p>_____ 8. dexterous</p> <p>_____ 9. dour</p> <p>_____ 10. exalt</p> <p>_____ 11. felicitous</p> <p>_____ 12. impeccable</p> | <p>a. very dry</p> <p>b. skillful with the hands; deft</p> <p>c. harmful or destructive</p> <p>d. to decrease; to subside</p> <p>e. scorn; dislike; disdain</p> <p>f. free from fault or blame</p> <p>g. sullen; stern; harsh</p> <p>h. festive; wonderful; happy</p> <p>i. to harass or to surround</p> <p>j. to glorify; to praise; to extol</p> <p>k. preceding; existing before</p> <p>l. given to faultfinding and sarcasm</p> |
|--|---|

Exercise B

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

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.

Lesson 15



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.