

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 | |

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|-----|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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, reprovied, 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

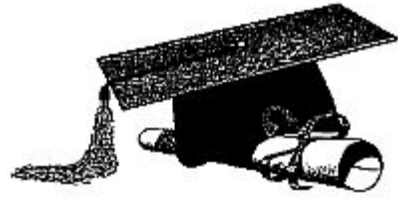
- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | antithesis | a. | direct opposite; contrast |
| _____ | 2. | ascend | b. | changeable; erratic; fickle |
| _____ | 3. | austere | c. | to go up; to rise |
| _____ | 4. | autonomous | d. | ruining of another's 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

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|-------|-----|------------|----|------------------------------------|
| _____ | 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 |

1. The woman is suing the magazine for _____ of character because she thinks that their comments have ruined her reputation.
2. After her superb performance, the critics _____ her wonderful work; among the many things they praised was her sensitivity.
3. The woman was happy to learn that the tumor was _____ and would not cause her harm.
4. The _____ life of a monk does not provide for luxury items.
5. 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.
6. The skillful mountain climbers were not afraid to _____ the towering cliff which hovered above them.
7. The essay was marred by _____ comments that had already been made by thousands of uncreative students.
8. Only those who go through initiation ceremonies of the cult understand the meaning of their _____ vows.
9. You will only _____ the situation if you call her again; she has been aggravated enough.
10. The boss of the company does not allow his employees to _____; he expects them to work quickly and efficiently.
11. 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.
12. The citizens of the small village longed to be _____, fully independent and self-contained.

Lesson 2



| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 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.