

Lesson 1

Definitions



1.	altruistic	al tru IS tik	unselfishly concerned for the welfare of others, generous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> belligerent; stingy; selfish
	Nuns and nurses are usually very altruistic people since they seek ways to help people.		
	Derivatives >>	altruism, altruist, altruistically	
2.	ambivalent	am BIV uh lunt	having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action
	Synonyms >>	undecided	Antonym >> certain; firmly convinced
	I am ambivalent about a permanent relationship with him, because I like him one day and don't the next.		
	Derivatives >>	ambivalence	
3.	angular	ANG gyuh ler	lean; sharp cornered; gaunt
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> rotund
	The patient has lost so much weight that his face has become quite angular.		
	Derivatives >>	angulate, angularity, angulation, angulator	
4.	arrogant	AIR uh gunt	overbearingly assuming; insolently proud
	Synonyms >>	presumptuous, haughty, imperious, brazen	Antonym >> meek, modest
	Because the girl was so arrogant, she had few friends.		
	Derivatives >>	arrogance, arrogancy, arrogantly	
5.	aversion	uh VER shun	strong disinclination, disliking
	Synonyms >>	hesitance, loathing, reluctance	Antonym >> inclination
	I have an aversion to getting married.		
	Derivatives >>	averseness, aversely, averse	
6.	discern	deh SURN	to differentiate between two or more things
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to ignore; to be oblivious; to
	Because of the fog, I was barely able to discern the landing strip.		
	Derivatives >>	discerner, discernible, discernable, discernibleness, discernibly, discernably, discerningly, discernment	
7.	disdain	dis DANE	intense dislike; to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy
	Synonyms >>	(to be) arrogant, haughty, high-handed, insolent, lordly,	Antonym >> favor, admiration; to love
	Never having had to do manual labor, he disdained the idea of becoming a cotton picker.		
	Derivatives >>	disdained, disdaining, disdainer, disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness	
8.	disparage	deh SPAR ij	to degrade, to speak of someone or something in a derogatory manner
	Synonyms >>	belittle, decry, deprecate	Antonym >> to praise profusely
	His disparaging remarks about me caused the committee to give the job to another person.		
	Derivatives >>	disparagement, disparager, disparagingly	
9.	disparity	deh SPAR eh tee	inequality, the condition or fact of being unequal in age, rank, or degree
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> similarity
	The couple got married even though there was a great disparity in their ages.		
	Derivatives >>	disparate, disparately, disparateness, disparatum	
10.	embellish	em BEL ish	to decorate, to make beautiful with ornamentation
	Synonyms >>	deck, garnish, ornament, adorn	Antonym >> to abbreviate
	He would embellish his narratives with anecdotes about famous people.		
	Derivatives >>	embellisher, embellishment	
11.	engender	en JEN der	to cause, to produce, to create
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to squelch
	His angry words engendered strife in his relationship with his wife.		
	Derivatives >>	engendered, engenderer, engenders, engendering	

12.	innocuous	eh NOK yoo us	harmless, producing no injury	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	dangerous; injurious
	Since the drink is innocuous, it is okay for us to have some.			
	Derivatives >>	innocuously, innocuousness		
13.	insipid	in SIP id	boring and stupid	
	Synonyms >>	banal, flat, inane, jejune, vapid	Antonym >>	spirited and animated; zestful
	I am bored by your insipid talk.			
	Derivatives >>	insipidity, insipidly, insipidness		
14.	lament	luh MENT	to mourn or to express sorrow in a demonstrative manner	
	Synonyms >>	bemoan, bewail, deplore	Antonym >>	to rejoice
	She lamented the death of her father in a very lachrymose manner.			
	Derivatives >>	lamented, lamenting, lamentation, lamentable		
15.	laud	LAWD	to praise, to extol	
	Synonyms >>	revere	Antonym >>	to defame
	Her performance was lauded by all of the critics.			
	Derivatives >>	laudability, laudable, laudableness		
16.	obscure	ub SKYOOR	difficult to see, vague	
	Synonyms >>	abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, equivocal, recondite	Antonym >>	clear; apparent
	Because the meaning of the play was obscure, I was unable to enjoy it.			
	Derivatives >>	obscuration, obscurative, obscuredly, obscurely, obscurement, obscureness, obscurity		
17.	ostentatious	os ten TAY shus	showy, pretentious	
	Synonyms >>	pompous	Antonym >>	modest
	The ostentatious socialite wore her mink fur coat even during the warmest days of August.			
	Derivatives >>	ostentation, ostentate, ostentatiously, ostentatiousness, ostentative		
18.	prodigal	PROD uh gul	wasteful, a person given to extravagance	
	Synonyms >>	lavish, lush, luxuriant, profuse	Antonym >>	thrifty individual
	The prodigal son squandered his inheritance.			
	Derivatives >>	prodigality, prodigally, prodigalize		
19.	repudiate	reh PYOO dee ate	to reject, to disown, to disavow	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	to adopt
	He announced that he would repudiate all debts that had been created by his wife.			
	Derivatives >>	repudiation, repudiationist, repudiator		
20.	reticence	RET uh suns	restraint in speech, reluctance to speak	
	Synonyms >>	reserve, taciturnity	Antonym >>	candor
	A lawyer must have great reticence in discussing matters that could violate his client's rights.			
	Derivatives >>	reticency, reticent, reticently		
21.	revere	reh VERE	to honor, to regard with respect	
	Synonyms >>	adore, venerate, worship	Antonym >>	to despise
	Nearly all Catholics revere the Pope.			
	Derivatives >>	reverence, reverent, reverentness, reverential, reverentiality, reverentially		
22.	serene	suh REEN	calm, placid	
	Synonyms >>	tranquil	Antonym >>	agitated
	The mountain on a clear spring morning is a serene setting.			
	Derivatives >>	serenely, sereneness, serenity		
23.	subtle	SUT ul	delicate, elusive, not obvious	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	obvious; gross; blunt
	To avoid being obtrusive in the elegant restaurant, he used subtle gestures to call the waiter to his table.			
	Derivatives >>	subtilist, subtlety, subtilization, subtilize, subtilizer, subtleness, subtlety		
24.	superfluous	soo PUR floo us	beyond what is needed or required, an overflow	
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>	necessary
	The meeting lasted so long because of many superfluous comments by some of the speakers.			
	Derivatives >>	superfluously, superfluousness, superfluent, superfluity		
25.	taciturn	TAS eh turn	quiet, not verbose	
	Synonyms >>	reserved, reticent	Antonym >>	loquacious; talkative
	A shy person is usually taciturn.			
	Derivatives >>	tacit, tacitly, tacitness, taciturnity, taciturnly		

Lesson 1

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

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|-------|-----|------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | altruistic | a. | contempt; intense dislike |
| _____ | 2. | ambivalent | b. | quiet; saying little; usually silent |
| _____ | 3. | angular | c. | to praise; to extol |
| _____ | 4. | arrogant | d. | undecided; unable to choose |
| _____ | 5. | aversion | e. | inequality in age, rank, or degree |
| _____ | 6. | discern | f. | not clear or distinct; vague |
| _____ | 7. | disparage | g. | overbearingly assuming; proud |
| _____ | 8. | disparity | h. | generous; concerned for others |
| _____ | 9. | embellish | i. | to decorate; to adorn; to ornament |
| _____ | 10. | taciturn | j. | to speak badly of; to degrade |
| _____ | 11. | laud | k. | to perceive; to differentiate |
| _____ | 12. | obscure | l. | lean, gaunt; sharp-cornered |

Exercise B

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|-------|-----|--------------|----|----------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. | engender | a. | strong disinclination; dislike |
| _____ | 2. | disdain | b. | wastefully extravagant; lavish |
| _____ | 3. | innocuous | c. | reserve; taciturnity; silence |
| _____ | 4. | insipid | d. | delicate, elusive, not obvious |
| _____ | 5. | lament | e. | boring and stupid |
| _____ | 6. | ostentatious | f. | calm, placid |
| _____ | 7. | prodigal | g. | to disown, to reject, to disavow |
| _____ | 8. | repudiate | h. | harmless; innocent |
| _____ | 9. | reticence | i. | to mourn, to wail |
| _____ | 10. | revere | j. | showy; pretentious |
| _____ | 11. | serene | k. | needless; overflowing; extra |
| _____ | 12. | subtle | l. | to honor; to worship |
| _____ | 13. | superfluous | m. | to originate; to produce |

Lesson One Sentence Completion



altruistic	ambivalent	angular	arrogant
aversion	discern	disdain	disparaging
disparate	embellish	innocuous	subtle

1. Even though the _____ programs had no similarities, they worked toward the same goals, and that made them compatible.
2. Her extended illness had resulted in her _____ look; she was so gaunt and lean that none of her clothes fit well.
3. Missionaries are considered _____ because they are unselfishly concerned for the welfare of others.
4. On hot summer days it is difficult to _____ the difference between a puddle of water and heat waves produced on the road.
5. It was hard to believe that her feelings could be hurt over such _____ remarks, for nothings he said was really harmful.
6. I cannot understand how anyone can be so _____ about this project; you either support it or you don't, but this constant changing of viewpoints is beyond my comprehension.
7. Because I have a natural _____ to hominy, I never eat the stuff; it is one food that I can't stand.
8. Because of his _____ remarks about me, the committee gave the job to another person; he had effectively ruined my reputation.
9. I met his _____ remarks with _____; I didn't appreciate his trying to hide his feelings. He should have been forthright, open and honest.
10. The young girl tried to _____ her handwriting by adding swirls and curls to her letters.
11. No one wanted to be around the _____ man; his proud manner bordered on rudeness.

Lesson 1



engender	insipid	lament	laud	obscure
ostentatious	prodigal	repudiate	reticence	revere
serene	superfluous	taciturn		

12. Certain passages of the book were so _____ that it was difficult to get a clear understanding of exactly what the author had intended to say.
13. The man never saved any money because of his _____ attitude; he has never been able to hold on to a dollar when it could be spent on something frivolous.
14. The girl's _____ conversation bored him to tears; he abhorred silly, meaningless chatter.
15. The sounds of _____ rising from the sick room announced the death of the man.
16. In a society of increasing lawlessness, it seems that young children have not been taught to _____ authority and law.
17. This paper is marred by _____ details that could have been left out.
18. If you show respect for a person, you are likely to _____ a similar regard in that person to show respect for you.
19. To give praise to mental laziness is difficult for me, but to _____ students with quick minds is a pleasure.
20. The girl's _____ was not an asset to her; indeed, her inability to speak in public was like a curse.
21. The _____ man said very little; he spoke only when spoken to, and even then he was direct and concise.
22. He hired a team of lawyers to _____ the charge that he had embezzled any funds from the company.
23. A few hints of sophistication began to appear in the woman's _____ apparel; she soon dropped the gaudy accessories and became a conservative dresser.
24. We stood before the lake and looked at the placid waters, _____ and calm.