

# Lesson 1

**aggravate** AG•ruh•vate VERB

1. to irritate or annoy [Don't *aggravate* me by interrupting.]
2. to make worse [Scratching your rash will only *aggravate* the condition.]

**comprehend** kom•pree•HEND VERB

to understand fully [Do you *comprehend* my instructions?]

**cower** KOW•ur VERB

to crouch and tremble; to shrink back in fear or because of pain [Whenever the cruel king was angry, all his servants would *cower*.]

**endure** en•DUR VERB

1. to last; to continue to exist [Did your house *endure* the earthquake?]
2. to put up with or bear; to show lasting strength [I don't think I can *endure* any more complaints.]

**frugal** FROO•gul ADJECTIVE

thrifty; not wasteful [My *frugal* parents often serve leftovers.]

**futile** FYOO•tul ADJECTIVE

useless, worthless, or hopeless; not effective [Our efforts to put out the fire were *futile*.]

**immense** ih•MENCE ADJECTIVE

huge; enormous [Blue whales are *immense* creatures.]

**insufficient** in•suh•FISH•unt ADJECTIVE

not as much as is needed [A light jacket is *insufficient* on a freezing day.]

**laborious** luh•BOR•ee•us ADJECTIVE

involving or requiring labor or much hard work; difficult [Plowing rocky soil is a *laborious* job.]

**malice** MAL•us NOUN

the desire to harm another; ill will [It is reasonable to fear someone who shows *malice* toward you.]

**parasite** PAIR•uh•site NOUN

1. a plant or animal that lives on (or within) another from which it gets food [A flea is a *parasite*.]
2. one who lives at another's expense without contributing anything of value [Uncle Ed is a *parasite* who expects Grandma to support him.]

**predicament** pree•DIK•uh•munt NOUN

a difficult or unpleasant situation [Our flat tire put us in a *predicament*.]

**scoff** SKOF VERB

to show scorn; to look down on or make fun of someone or something [People used to *scoff* at early automobiles, but that attitude didn't last.]

**trivial** TRIV•ee•ul ADJECTIVE

not valuable or important [Let's not argue about *trivial* things.]

**unanimous** yoo•NAN•uh•mus ADJECTIVE

in (or based on) complete agreement [The group's decision was *unanimous*.]

Alice



Malice



**Exercise A: Synonyms**

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence.

1. If you are "up a creek without a paddle," you're in a \_\_\_\_.
2. Someone who believes in "waste not, want not" is \_\_\_\_.
3. If you make a situation "go from bad to worse," you \_\_\_\_ it.
4. Something that is "big as a house" or "jumbo" is \_\_\_\_.
5. A task that is an "uphill battle" or "easier said than done" is \_\_\_\_.
6. When a group of people "see eye to eye," their decision is \_\_\_\_.
7. If you "get it," "catch on," or "see the light," you \_\_\_\_ it.
8. If you "poke fun" at something or "look down your nose," you \_\_\_\_.
9. If you "hang in there" and "stick it out," you will \_\_\_\_.
10. If something is "no big deal" or "makes no difference," it is \_\_\_\_.

**Exercise B: Other Forms of Words**

Use what you know about the **Words** to choose the correct answers.

- \_\_\_ 11. If a team **unanimously** decides to buy new uniforms, how many people vote no?  
A. none                      B. only a few                      C. almost half
- \_\_\_ 12. Which kind of track event requires the most **endurance**?  
A. high jump                      B. 2-mile race                      C. 50-meter sprint
- \_\_\_ 13. Which words would probably be spoken by a **cowering** person?  
A. "Oh, yeah?"                      B. "I can't wait!"                      C. "Don't hurt me!"
- \_\_\_ 14. Who are most likely to behave **maliciously** toward each other?  
A. friends                      B. enemies                      C. co-workers
- \_\_\_ 15. If you are **insufficiently** fed, how do you feel?  
A. stuffed                      B. hungry                      C. comfortable
- \_\_\_ 16. What would you be most likely to think of as an **aggravation**?  
A. a constant itch                      B. a burning house                      C. a birthday cake
- \_\_\_ 17. Which of these things is supposed to measure **comprehension**?  
A. a yardstick                      B. a bathroom scale                      C. a classroom test

**Question:** What do you call a rude flea?  
**Answer:** An impolite parasite

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### Exercise C: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question.

18. What does the saying "A penny saved is a penny earned" encourage people to be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. What are you in when your boat springs a leak a long way from shore?  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. What do the two sides involved in a feud usually feel toward each other?  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. If a big dog starts growling and snapping at a puppy, what is the puppy likely to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. When a teacher explains something, what does he or she hope the students will do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. What kind of creature is a tick (or a person who behaves like one)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. If you got a sunburn, what kind of protection did you get from your sunscreen lotion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
25. What kind of job would it be to scrub the kitchen floor on your hands and knees?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise D: Antonyms

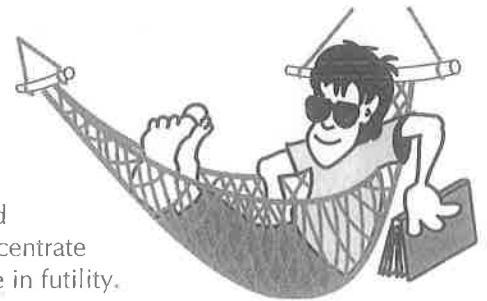
Write the **Word** that is an antonym for each word.

26. effective \_\_\_\_\_
27. easy \_\_\_\_\_
28. admire \_\_\_\_\_
29. collapse \_\_\_\_\_
30. provider \_\_\_\_\_
31. enough \_\_\_\_\_
32. important \_\_\_\_\_
33. soothe \_\_\_\_\_
34. wasteful \_\_\_\_\_
35. tiny \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise E: Writing

An "exercise in *futility*" is an effort that just won't succeed, no matter what! It could be asking a bully to "play nice" or trying to patch a leaky roof with Scotch tape. On your own paper, describe what you think would be a **futile** effort, or an exercise in futility. Use **THREE Words** in your description.

There are days when home-work seems laborious and trying to concentrate is an exercise in futility.



### Quick LIST

aggravate V.	endure V.	immense ADJ.	malice N.	scoff V.
comprehend V.	frugal ADJ.	insufficient ADJ.	parasite N.	trivial ADJ.
cower V.	futile ADJ.	laborious ADJ.	predicament N.	unanimous ADJ.

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## Exercise F: Fill-in

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence. Use each word only once.

36. Lily talked awhile about \_\_\_\_\_ matters before telling her friend the big news.
37. Robbie is not a \_\_\_\_\_; he always does his fair share of work around the house.
38. The crowd at the championship game was \_\_\_\_\_ and filled the gymnasium.
39. I can't \_\_\_\_\_ anything my neighbors say because they speak German and I don't.
40. Tina's parents were \_\_\_\_\_ for many years so that they could send her to college.
41. If my family had to plan a vacation based on a \_\_\_\_\_ decision, we would never go anywhere!
42. I don't mind setting the table, but I hate \_\_\_\_\_ jobs like scrubbing the kitchen floor.
43. It's unkind to \_\_\_\_\_ at people who are doing the best they can.
44. It was a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ that made someone put a big scratch on our car with a key.
45. Farmers face hardships when there is \_\_\_\_\_ rain during the growing season.
46. Ben made many \_\_\_\_\_ attempts to make his stubborn horse trot.
47. Mia was in a \_\_\_\_\_ when she locked herself out of the house on a freezing cold day.
48. I thought that making noise might \_\_\_\_\_ my mother's headaches, so I tried to keep quiet.
49. A child who is not used to horses might \_\_\_\_\_ when one approaches, even if it's friendly.
50. The ability of the United States to \_\_\_\_\_ was in doubt during the Civil War.



Alice with an immense pencil



A guy with an insufficient supply of hair



A super guy who never cowers

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