

Lesson 12

adequate AD•ih•kwit ADJECTIVE

good enough for the situation [I'm not the best pitcher on the team, but I'm *adequate* for today's game.]

agony AG•uh•nee NOUN

great pain of body or mind [A broken leg can cause *agony*.]

audible AW•duh•bul ADJECTIVE

heard or capable of being heard [The cheeping of the baby birds was barely *audible* from the ground.]

brawny BRAW•nee ADJECTIVE

muscular; strong [The *brawny* lumberjack could swing an ax as if it were a candy cane.]

cantankerous kan•TANG•kur•us ADJECTIVE

never agreeable; difficult to deal with [The guy at the bookstore is so *cantankerous*, I hate going in there.]

decade DEK•ade NOUN

a ten-year period [The sixties was a *decade* of restlessness and change.]

exquisite EX•kwih•zit ADJECTIVE

1. extremely lovely; delicately beautiful [Your roses are *exquisite*.]
2. highly admirable; excellent [His manners are *exquisite*.]

ferocious fuh•ROH•shus ADJECTIVE

savagely cruel; extremely fierce or violent [A hungry lion is a *ferocious* beast.]

flourish FLUR•ish

NOUN a fancy or showy motion; a dramatic, sweeping movement [I set the decorated cake down on the table with a *flourish*.]

VERB to grow and develop well; to be successful [Grandma is a wonderful gardener, and all her plants *flourish*.]

hearsay HEER•say NOUN

gossip; something that is not known directly but from being repeated [You shouldn't believe what Jeri tells you about Hank; it's only *hearsay*.]

impartial im•PAR•shul ADJECTIVE

fair; not taking one side or the other [Lawyers aren't supposed to be *impartial*, but judges are.]

mar MAR VERB

to damage; to keep from being perfect [Be careful not to *mar* the finish of the car by scratching it.]

opaque oh•PAKE ADJECTIVE

blocking light; not capable of being seen through [An *opaque* paint will cover those marks completely.]

ransack RAN•sak VERB

to search thoroughly through [If you're going to *ransack* that drawer, put everything back!]

texture TEX•chur NOUN

the surface qualities of something; the way something feels to the touch [The *texture* of the cloth was rough and a little scratchy.]

A VERY SILLY (AND TOTALLY MADE-UP) STORY ABOUT HEARSAY

In 1883, a kind-hearted rancher named Billie B. Boop accidentally invented a new "language." To keep her sheep from feeling mental agony, Boop told her ranch hands that it was time to "ear-shay the eep-shay." The hands liked this way of talking and called it Earshay.

A decade later, a traveling salesman brought Earshay back east but mistakenly called it Hearsay. Today, that word has a different meaning, and Earshay is called Pig Latin. (Some people want Congress to pass a law to name it Sheep Latin, but that's another story.)

One of Oop-bay's
eep-shays



later

Exercise A: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

1. It would be a compliment to describe someone's manners as being **exquisite**. TRUE FALSE
2. You can be sure that information you get from **hearsay** is absolutely true. TRUE FALSE
3. Umpires and referees are always supposed to be **impartial**. TRUE FALSE
4. A **brawny** person would need help carrying a suitcase. TRUE FALSE
5. The time from 1975 to 1987 was a **decade**. TRUE FALSE
6. Velvet and denim have different **textures**. TRUE FALSE

Exercise B: Antonyms

Write the **Word** that is an antonym for each set of words.

7. repair; fix; protect _____
8. crude; plain; ordinary _____
9. gentle; tame; harmless _____
10. weaken; fade; collapse _____
11. scrawny; weak; delicate _____
12. silent; hushed; noiseless _____
13. transparent; clear as glass _____
14. one-sided; unjust; slanted _____

Exercise C: Analogies

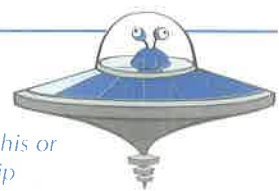
Write the letter of the word pair that completes each analogy.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>_____ 15. mar : ruin ::</p> <p>A. rip : tear</p> <p>B. hear : see</p> <p>C. grow : shrink</p> <p>D. dampen : soak</p> | <p>_____ 17. look : ransack :</p> <p>A. listen : hear</p> <p>B. clean : scrub</p> <p>C. talk : whisper</p> <p>D. ask : answer</p> | <p>_____ 19. audible : ears :</p> <p>A. visible : eyes</p> <p>B. lonely : alone</p> <p>C. delicious : food</p> <p>D. painful : blisters</p> |
| <p>_____ 16. year : decade :</p> <p>A. dime : dollar</p> <p>B. day : week</p> <p>C. ounce : pound</p> <p>D. finger : hand</p> | <p>_____ 18. texture : touch :</p> <p>A. giggle : laugh</p> <p>B. cloth : fabric</p> <p>C. sound : hearing</p> <p>D. sheep : wool</p> | <p>_____ 20. agony : pain :</p> <p>A. itch : lotion</p> <p>B. beauty : ugliness</p> <p>C. cat : kitten</p> <p>D. terror : fear</p> |

A MAR(S) STORY

On July 3, 1776, a spaceship landed near Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The pilot introduced himself or herself and apologized for interrupting whatever was going on.

A ferocious frown on his face, Ben Franklin said, "Sir or madam! I don't care if you're from Mars! That apology is not adequate. You have marred our whole ceremony! Now we'll have to do it all over again tomorrow!"



The pilot in his or her spaceship

Let's

In 1922, poet H. H. Hoop visited his hometown, Mojo, Maine. There he saw his school sweetheart Elva, a delicate beauty, and politely asked about her husband, Elmo Quisite. "That brawny bozo? We're divorced," Elva said. "Now I'm ex-Quisite." A year later, Hoop published his collection of poems titled *Exquisite Elva*.

AN EXQUISITE STORY



A pile of poetry
by H. H. Hoop

Exercise D: If...

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

21. If the pudding tastes good, but you don't like the lumps in it, you dislike the pudding's
22. If Mary tells you Al got in trouble, but you didn't see Al get in trouble and Al didn't tell you himself, the news is
23. If you like privacy and don't want people to be able to see into your room, you would want curtains made of material that is
24. If you were 12 and your brother were 22, the difference in your ages would be one
25. If you're proud of your report card and want to show it off, you might present it to your parents by waving it before them with a
26. If you are always disagreeing with people, hardly ever smile, and growl when someone says hello, you are
27. If your lunch is a boring sandwich that fills you up but is not what you'd call great, you might describe it as

Exercise E: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that is closest in meaning to each set of words and phrases.

Quick LIST

adequate ADJ.

agony N.

audible ADJ.

brawny ADJ.

cantankerous ADJ.

decade N.

exquisite ADJ.

ferocious ADJ.

flourish N., V.

hearsay N.

impartial ADJ.

mar V.

opaque ADJ.

ransack V.

texture N.

28. torment; torture

29. wild; brutal; merciless

30. dent; chip; scar; mark

31. satisfactory; not too bad

32. cranky; grouchy; grumpy

33. gorgeous; graceful; beautiful

34. sturdy; rugged; strong as an ox

35. look high and low; turn upside down

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. It is important for teachers to be _____ so that one student doesn't feel more favored than another.
37. Football players are usually either fast or _____, and some of them are both.
38. My aunt has the most _____ set of china that she washes and dries by hand for fear of damaging it.
39. The scar on Karen's forehead does not _____ her beauty; it just makes her look more interesting.
40. A dog whistle makes a special noise that is not _____ to people, but dogs can hear it for blocks.
41. It takes more than a _____ to complete your regular schooling, and many people then go on to four years of college.
42. The _____ around school is that Mr. Bowen is quitting after this year, but I want to ask him myself if it's true.
43. Did a burglar _____ your room looking for something, or do you always leave it this messy?
44. We used to have a _____ neighbor who was very hard to get along with, and he always made me nervous.
45. Lions and tigers are _____ animals, but bears can be just as dangerous.
46. I've been hurt many times, but I've never felt real _____, and I hope I never will!
47. Children need good food, exercise, and love in order to _____.
48. The _____ of brick gives the wall an interesting, rough look.
49. We will need a lot of food to have a meal that is _____ for twelve hungry people.
50. Since aluminum foil is _____, if you wrap food with it, you can't see what's inside.



A CANTANKEROUS STORY

In 1965, 86-year-old Clyde Cloop of Cantanker County, Kentucky, complained to local police that someone was following him around and wouldn't stop whistling at him. Cloop said the sound was audible wherever he went, causing him great agony. "Oh, for crying out loud," Cloop's wife Clara told the policeman, "Clyde is just an old Cantanker-ous man, and he refuses to get his hearing aid fixed!"

A Cantanker County cop (who needs an aspirin)

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