

Lesson 13

belated *bih•LAY•tud* ADJECTIVE

too late; not on time [I missed the first act of the play because of my *belated* arrival.]

caress *kuh•RES*

VERB to stroke tenderly or lovingly [Mothers often *caress* their children to soothe them.]

NOUN a tender or loving touch [I gave the cat a *caress* as she walked past.]

convey *kun•VAY* VERB

1. to carry or transport [Many pioneers used covered wagons to *convey* their possessions and supplies.]

2. to make known; to communicate [I sent a card to *convey* my sympathy.]

exclude *ex•KLOOD* VERB

to keep out; to shut out [I'll invite the whole class because I don't want to *exclude* anyone.]

fluster *FLUS•tur* VERB

to make or become nervous and unsure [Don't let the fans' cheering *fluster* you; just concentrate on making the shot.]

frayed *FRADE* ADJECTIVE

worn thin at the edges, ragged [The collar on that old shirt is *frayed*.]

fundamental *fun•duh•MEN•tul*

ADJECTIVE basic; essential; necessary [Food is a *fundamental* need for all living things.]

NOUN something that is basic or essential; a necessity [In basketball, dribbling is a *fundamental*.]

glade *GLADE* NOUN

a grassy open space in a forest [We picnicked in the *glade*.]

illusion *ih•LOO•zhun* NOUN

1. a misleading appearance [Mirrors can create the *illusion* that a small room is big.]

2. a false idea or mistaken belief [My *illusion* that I didn't need to study was ruined by an F.]

incentive *in•SEN•tuv* NOUN

something that makes one take action or cause one to work harder [My *incentive* for mowing the lawn was the payment that my dad offered me.]

remote *rih•MOTE* ADJECTIVE

1. far off in place or time; not near or recent [He has a *remote* cabin in the woods.]

2. slight or faint [There is only a *remote* possibility that we'll win.]

skimp *SKIMP* VERB

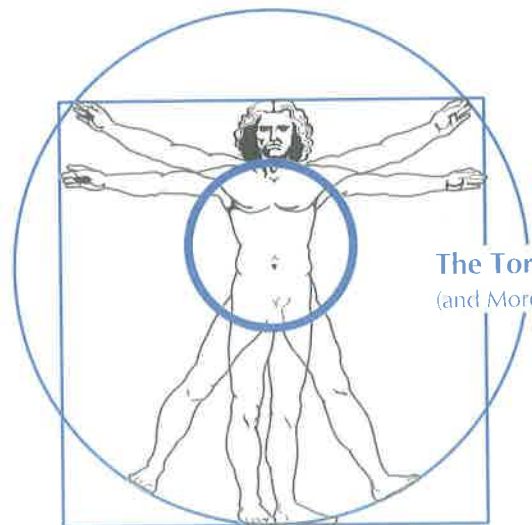
to spend or use as little as possible [If I really *skimp*, I can make this money last all week.]

strive *STRIVE* VERB

to try hard; to make great efforts [We will *strive* to do our best.]

torso *TOR•so* NOUN

the human body, not including the arms, legs, and head; trunk [Twist your *torso* to the left.]



The Torso
(and More So)

venomous *VEN•uh•mus* ADJECTIVE

1. poisonous [Honeybees are *venomous*, which is why a bee sting swells and hurts.]

2. hateful; evil; showing ill will [When I proved that Lisa was lying, she gave me a *venomous* look.]

both

Exercise A: Put It Briefly

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

1. People don't jog unless they want to become stronger or lose weight or get in shape or increase their energy. *Briefly*, they need some sort of
2. School started at 8:00 but I didn't get there until 8:30, which was later than I was supposed to be there, so I was tardy. *Briefly*, my arrival was
3. Lena got sunburned on her face and arms and neck and legs and everywhere except what was protected by her swimming suit. *Briefly*, what doesn't hurt is her
4. If that spider bites you, you'll swell up and hurt and itch because it will inject this stuff that's harmful to your body and can be very dangerous. *Briefly*, that spider is
5. Those pants cuffs look shabby because, though they're not torn, the material is all worn away due to rubbing on the ground. *Briefly*, the cuffs are
6. That cow doesn't really have twice as many legs as it should; it's two cows, with one partly hidden behind the other. *Briefly*, that eight-legged cow is an

Exercise B: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each question.

7. Is a fire **venomous**? YES NO
8. Is your chin part of your **torso**? YES NO
9. Do most valentines **convey** affection? ... YES NO
10. Does a window screen **exclude** breezes? YES NO
11. Does a magician's act depend on **illusions**? YES NO
12. Would a reward often work as an **incentive**? YES NO
13. Would you be likely to see a skyscraper in a **glade**? YES NO
14. Is multiplication a **fundamental** part of mathematics? YES NO
15. Are your chances of being struck by lightning **remote**? YES NO
16. Would it **fluster** a singer to forget a song during a performance? YES NO

Question:
Why was Cinderella excluded from the basketball team?

Answer:
Because she ran away from the ball and then lost her shoe.

with

Exercise C: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that is a synonym for each of these words.

- 17. attempt _____
- 18. tardy _____
- 19. disturb _____
- 20. pat _____
- 21. clearing _____

Exercise D: Rhyme Time

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

- 22. A faraway canoe is a _____ boat.
- 23. To cuddle Elizabeth is to _____ Bess.
- 24. To struggle not to die is to _____ to survive.
- 25. To leave one fellow out is to _____ a dude.
- 26. To serve very few shellfish is to _____ on the shrimp.
- 27. To haul horse food elsewhere is to _____ hay away.
- 28. A ragged covering on a window is a _____ shade.

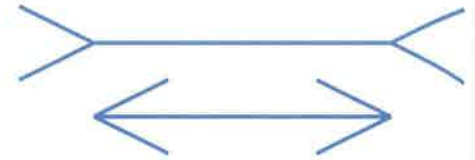
Exercise E: Antonyms

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

- 29. kind; warm-hearted; tender _____
- 30. take it easy; quit; give up _____
- 31. include; contain; take in _____
- 32. nearby; close; not far _____
- 33. waste; spend; use up _____
- 34. extra; unimportant _____
- 35. reality; truth; fact _____

Can You Believe Your Eyes?

An optical illusion is a trick your eyes play on you. (The word *optical* means "having to do with vision.") Which line is longer—the one on top or the one on the bottom?



Answer
Believe it or not, the two lines are equal in length. They appear to have different lengths because of the angles of the other lines. (Measure!)

Question:
Why was the venomous snake so unpopular?



Answer
Because of his poisonality

6th

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

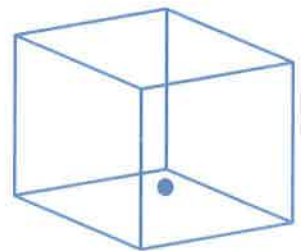
36. One has to have a very flexible _____ to do a back bend.
37. The old tablecloth was _____ and faded from years of use.
38. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are _____ parts of education.
39. His grandfather's _____ helped to calm the frightened little boy.
40. If you _____ on the sugar, your homemade lemonade will be too sour.
41. A saying that urges one to continue to _____ is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."
42. A large van will be used to _____ the team and all the equipment to the tournament.
43. The ship reached the _____ island after weeks of sailing.
44. My _____ that I was the team's best hitter was destroyed when I struck out nine times in a row.
45. A lovely _____ provided a nice resting place after our long hike in the woods.
46. Many organizations that used to _____ women now allow them to join.
47. I'm sure it would _____ me to drop my note cards in the middle of giving a speech.
48. A water moccasin is not a shoe; it's a _____ snake that should be avoided.
49. Our _____ to get our work done quickly was Dad's promise of a trip to the beach.
50. We sent her a _____ birthday card two weeks after her birthday.

Quick LIST

- belated** ADJ.
- caress** V., N.
- convey** V.
- exclude** V.
- fluster** V.
- frayed** ADJ.
- fundamental** ADJ., N.
- glade** N.
- illusion** N.
- incentive** N.
- remote** ADJ.
- skimp** V.
- strive** V.
- torso** N.
- venomous** ADJ.

Are You Sure About Your Eyes?

In this optical illusion, is the dot *inside* the box or *outside* it?



Answer: If you can't see this one, just keep trying. At first the dot will seem to be outside (or inside) the box; then when you look again, it's the opposite. The dot appears to move as your eyes focus and re-focus. They're trying to make this illusion make sense!