

# Lesson 19

**ascertain** *as•sur•TANE* VERB  
to find out for certain; to determine  
[She took apart the clock to *ascertain* which part was broken.]

**disclose** *dis•KLOZE* VERB  
to make known or public; to reveal  
[The candidate decided to *disclose* the fact that he had once been arrested.]

**dismay** *dis•MAY*  
NOUN a loss of courage or a deeply worried feeling due to being faced with trouble or danger [The farmer reacted with *dismay* to the sight of his destroyed crops.]  
VERB to fill with alarm or fear [It will *dismay* Reba to find out that the test is tomorrow.]

**douse** *DOWCE* VERB  
to plunge or push into a liquid or to pour a liquid over; to soak [A quick, mean way to wake someone is to *douse* his face with water.]

**gaudy** *GAW•dee* ADJECTIVE  
dressed or decorated with a lot of color but very little taste [Clowns tumbled around the ring in their *gaudy* costumes.]

**immune** *im•YOON* ADJECTIVE  
not affected by [Everyone got the flu except Flora, who seems to be *immune* to it.]

**knack** *NAK* NOUN  
a special ability that is hard to figure out or teach [Dion has a *knack* for guessing which songs will make it big.]

**negotiate** *nih•GO•shee•ate* VERB  
to arrange something through discussion and compromise [The principal will *negotiate* with the school board for more athletic equipment.]

**plight** *PLITE* NOUN  
an unfortunate, difficult, or dangerous situation [When the waves turned her boat over, May was in a terrible *plight*.]

**prominent** *PROM•uh•nunt* ADJECTIVE  
1. sticking out; standing out [My dad has a *prominent* forehead.]  
2. noticeable; easy to see [The old hotel was the most *prominent* building on the block.]  
3. important and well known [Judge Keith is a *prominent* member of the community.]

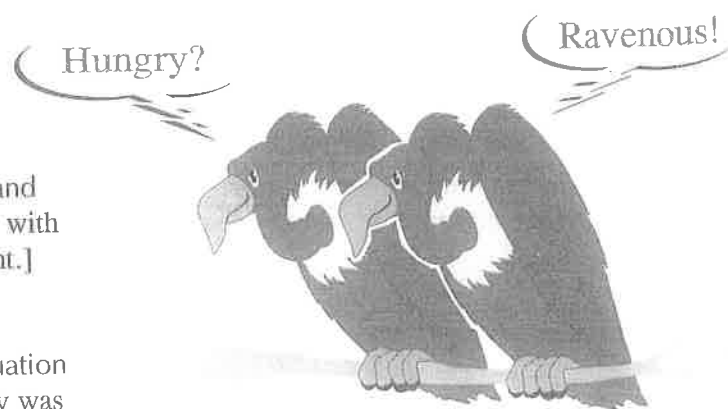
**ravenous** *RAV•uh•nus* ADJECTIVE  
very eager for food; very hungry [Kelly had skipped lunch so she was *ravenous* for dinner.]

**tactics** *TAK•tix* NOUN  
procedures used to get an advantage or be successful; methods [Our coach always comes up with *tactics* for us to use that help us win.]

**terse** *TURS* ADJECTIVE  
using the fewest words necessary to say something [When I asked my sister if she'd miss me, her *terse* reply was "Not much."]

**urgent** *UR•junt* ADJECTIVE  
in need of immediate attention or action [The accident victim had an *urgent* need for a doctor.]

**vessel** *VES•ul* NOUN  
1. a hollow container such as a cup or vase [The crystal glass was the perfect *vessel* for the deep red cranberry juice.]  
2. a ship or boat [My uncle knows every *vesse* that ever anchored in that harbor.]



A Terse Conversation

**Exercise A: Yes or No**

Circle YES or NO for each question.

1. Do you get to have everything your way when you **negotiate**? ..... YES NO
2. Do **prominent** people get more attention than most of us? ..... YES NO
3. Would people be **dismayed** if their house burned down? ..... YES NO
4. When people are starving, is their need for food **urgent**? .... YES NO
5. If you have a **knack** for cooking, are you good at it? .... YES NO
6. Is a **plight** something people want to get into? .... YES NO
7. Do cats usually enjoy being **doused**? ..... YES NO
8. Do generals use **tactics** in a battle? ..... YES NO
9. Is a normal pair of jeans **gaudy**? ..... YES NO
10. Is a dinner table a **vessel**? ..... YES NO

A Promise  
that's Terse (for  
Better or Worse)

I do.

I do.



**Exercise B: Opposites**

Complete each sentence with a **Word**. To do so, you need to know that Stan and his brother Dan are opposites in everything.

11. Stan is chatty, never gives a short answer to anything, and could talk your ear off, but Dan is \_\_\_\_.
12. Dan is a common, ordinary lawyer whom few people have ever heard of, but Stan is the most \_\_\_\_ lawyer in town.
13. Stan is always chilly and wears two sweaters and a coat all winter, but Dan seems \_\_\_\_ to the cold.
14. Dan wears gray or tan all the time, but Stan likes \_\_\_\_ clothing such as wide orange ties with bright green parrots on them.
15. Stan is all thumbs and destroys whatever he tries to repair, but Dan has a \_\_\_\_ for fixing things.
16. Dan nibbles at his food and pushes his plate away after a few bites, but Stan attacks every meal as if he is \_\_\_\_.
17. Stan loves a challenge, is never discouraged, and cannot be bullied, but Dan reacts to any kind of threat with \_\_\_\_.
18. Dan will drink only from crystal glasses or china coffee cups, but Stan is happy to use an old mayonnaise jar as a \_\_\_\_.
19. Stan has sneaky ways to get what he wants and will use any method he thinks will work, but Dan never uses dishonest \_\_\_\_.
20. Dan is relaxed and takes his time getting things done, but Stan rushes around thinking that every need and every job is \_\_\_\_.

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### Exercise C: Mini-Rhyme Time

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

21. A very short poem is a \_\_\_ verse. \_\_\_\_\_
22. When you take off your socks, you  
\_\_\_ your toes. \_\_\_\_\_
23. A truly serious problem or danger is  
quite a \_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
24. If you discover a fact and make it clear  
to someone, you \_\_\_ it and explain it. \_\_\_\_\_
25. Spraying water on the place you live  
will \_\_\_ your house. \_\_\_\_\_
26. A person who is getting a tetanus shot  
tomorrow will soon be \_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
27. If two people grab each other and  
struggle on a ship, they wrestle on a \_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise D: Synonyms

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

28. a sense of helplessness; a sinking feeling \_\_\_\_\_
29. short and to the point; with no wasted words \_\_\_\_\_
30. half-starved; could eat a horse; greedy as a pig \_\_\_\_\_
31. give and take; come to an agreement; bargain \_\_\_\_\_
32. let the cat out of the bag; spill the beans \_\_\_\_\_
33. a fix; a jam; a scrape; big trouble \_\_\_\_\_
34. know for sure; figure out \_\_\_\_\_
35. flashy; hard to miss \_\_\_\_\_

A Terse Comment  
on a Dairy Product



WHADDAYA  
CALLIT?

When Pluto and  
Goofy pushed  
Mickey into the  
lake, what they  
did was to . . .

Joe was thrilled  
with his new suit  
and eager to . . .

If you run into  
a rattlesnake  
you face a . . .

If you show your  
nervousness and  
fear, you . . .

A cargo ship  
that's loaded  
with bottles  
is a . . .

A guy with  
tattoos from  
head to toe  
has a . . .

A shortage of  
talent is a . . .

A hospital worker  
who doesn't have  
much to say  
is a . . .

What you  
would say to  
people who were  
about to get into  
a fight is . . .

**Quick LIST**

ascertain V.  
disclose V.  
dismay N., V.

douse V.  
gaudy ADJ.  
immune ADJ.  
knack N.

negotiate V.  
plight N.  
prominent ADJ.  
ravenous ADJ.

tactics N.  
terse ADJ.  
urgent ADJ.  
vessel N.

**Exercise E: Fill-in**

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

36. I'm not afraid we'll sink because this is a sturdy \_\_\_\_\_.
37. My father was a \_\_\_\_\_ businessman in our small city, and it seemed that everyone knew him.
38. The caller said his message for my mom was \_\_\_\_\_, so I got her from the backyard right away.
39. The look of \_\_\_\_\_ on my mother's face indicated that the caller had given her bad news.
40. If you ever had the chicken pox, you are \_\_\_\_\_ to it now and will not get it again.
41. I wondered where Dad had gone, but he left only a \_\_\_\_\_ note that said, "Back soon."
42. House buyers and sellers often have to \_\_\_\_\_ with each other to determine the final price.
43. Tina never took lessons, but she seems to have a \_\_\_\_\_ for golf.
44. The inspector needed to \_\_\_\_\_ whether the car was safe enough to drive.
45. Passersby responded to our \_\_\_\_\_ by giving us a push after our car got stuck in snow.
46. The lioness was \_\_\_\_\_ after four days of unsuccessful hunting, and so were her cubs.
47. My neighbor wears clothes that are so \_\_\_\_\_ she looks like she's dressing up for Halloween.
48. If a candidate uses dishonest \_\_\_\_\_ to try to get elected, you probably wouldn't want that person to be in office.
49. Mike won't show his birth certificate because it would \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that his middle name is Philpot.
50. After you pack up the tents, be sure to \_\_\_\_\_ the campfire.

douse the mouse.

disclose his clothes.

bite plight.

display dismay.

vessel vessel.

gaudy body.

lack of knack.

terse nurse.

"Wait, wait! Negotiate!"