

Lesson 2

cliché klee•SHAY NOUN

a phrase that is no longer very effective or meaningful because of being used too often [“Busy as a bee” is a *cliché*.]

commend kuh•MEND VERB

to speak of with approval; to praise [I want to *commend* you for your bravery.]

competent KOM•puh•tent ADJECTIVE

able to do something [Greg is quite *competent* in the kitchen, so the dinner he made for us was delicious.]

deception dih•SEP•shun NOUN

a trick or lie; something that deceives [A scarecrow is a *deception* that makes crows think a person is in the field.]

drudgery DRUJ•ur•ee NOUN

dull, uninteresting work [Scrubbing floors is *drudgery*.]

erode ee•RODE VERB

to wear away slowly [Rains began to *erode* the river bank.]

falter FOL•tur VERB

1. to hesitate; to not go straight onward; to lose courage [The soldiers did not *falter* even though they faced almost certain death.]

2. to speak in a hesitating way; to stammer [If you don't know the answer, you may *falter* when you try to give it.]

hoard HORD

NOUN a stored supply, often hidden [The squirrel has a *hoard* of nuts.]

VERB to store up for future use; to collect, often in a greedy way [We began to *hoard* food supplies when we heard that a big snowstorm was coming.]

intimidate in•TIM•uh•date VERB

to frighten; to influence by fear [No bully is going to *intimidate* me!]



“This is Mary Sue Moss. Today we’ll be talking to folks who have messages for Cinderella. What do you have to say, Mr. Stein?”



“Nnnn. Wicked old stepmother not intimidate Frankie.”

jubilant JOO•buh•lant ADJECTIVE

feeling great joy; filled with gladness and rejoicing; happy enough to shout [We were all *jubilant* when Ronna scored the winning run.]

luscious LUSH•us ADJECTIVE

delicious; extremely sweet and pleasing to any of the senses [The fresh peaches made a *luscious* pie.]

offend uh•FEND VERB

to cause [someone] to feel hurt or angry; to insult [I don't want to *offend* you, but you do look silly in that hat.]

retrieve rih•TREEV VERB

to get back; to recover [I dropped a quarter in the snow but was able to *retrieve* it.]

steadfast STED•fast ADJECTIVE

1. firm and unchanging [Lincoln's *steadfast* belief was that the Union should be preserved.]

2. loyal; true [Helen and I have been *steadfast* friends for many years.]

tact TAKT NOUN

the ability to deal with difficult situations without making people feel hurt or insulted [It requires *tact* to tell a friend you're voting for someone else for class president.]

Exercise A: Story Time

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

Before she met the prince, Cinderella's young life was filled with [1]. It is a [2] to say that she worked her fingers to the bone, but it is true. Although she wanted to go to the ball, her stepmother bullied and threatened and managed to [3] her into staying at home alone.

However, Cinderella's fairy godmother gave her beautiful clothes and a coach. Cinderella felt [4]! She met the prince, who was quite a [5] dancer, and they glided happily across the floor for hours. Cinderella didn't want to [6] the prince by running away suddenly without any explanation, but she had to when she heard the clock begin to strike twelve. Hearing that sound, she did not [7], but instead ran quickly to the coach. One slipper came off, and she didn't have time to go back to [8] it.

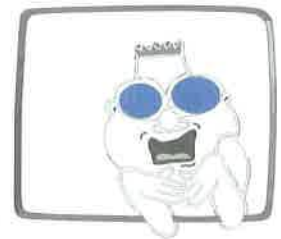
The prince was [9] in his love for Cinderella, and he searched the entire kingdom, looking for the woman whose foot fit the lost slipper. Each of Cinderella's stepsisters pretended the slipper was hers, but this [10] did not work because the slipper did not fit. The king's assistants found other ladies to [11], but the prince didn't care how lovely or nice they were; he loved only Cinderella. Nothing could [12] his faith that he would find her and, when he did, they lived happily ever after.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Exercise B: Other Forms of Words

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

13. Which is an example of **commendable** behavior?
A. cheating B. truthfulness C. laughing
14. Farms are most likely to suffer from **erosion** as a result of what?
A. floods B. insects C. cold weather
15. What kind of clothing is meant to be **deceptive**?
A. a uniform B. a disguise C. an evening gown
16. What might a person say **jubilantly**?
A. "Hurray!" B. "Rats!" C. "Keep trying."
17. What do **tactful** people try not to hurt?
A. themselves B. the Earth C. others' feelings



"My name is Osgood, and I think Cinderella is just luscious."



"Stories about weak, silly women offend me! And so does that twerp Osgood!"

Exercise C: True or False

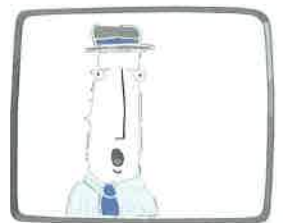
Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

18. A miser is someone who **hoards** his or her money. TRUE FALSE
19. Most people would consider a picnic on the beach to be **drudgery**. TRUE FALSE
20. If you know exactly what to say, you are likely to **falter** when you say it. TRUE FALSE
21. People who express themselves in original ways use many **clichés**. TRUE FALSE
22. Telling an umpire he's blind as a bat would probably **offend** him. TRUE FALSE
23. Dessert is supposed to be a **luscious** part of a meal. TRUE FALSE

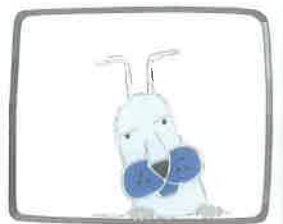
Exercise D: Antonyms

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

24. lose; misplace _____
25. blame; criticize _____
26. build up; add to _____
27. unskillful; not able _____
28. flatter; praise; please _____
29. share; use up; distribute _____
30. encourage; inspire; reassure _____
31. sad; sorrowful; disappointed _____
32. changeable; temporary; weak _____
33. truthfulness; honesty; sincerity _____
34. clumsy comments; thoughtlessness _____
35. disgusting; nasty-tasting; unpleasing _____



"Oh, I'm on? Er, yes, I'm, uh, Bob, and I think the prince is very competent, for a, um, er, prince. . . . Did I falter too much?"



"I woulda fetched yer shlipper, but ya didn't ashk. Ya want me to retrieve shomethin now? Huh? Do ya? I will."

Quick LIST

cliché N.	deception N.	falter V.	jubilant ADJ.	retrieve V.
commend V.	drudgery N.	hoard N., V.	luscious ADJ.	steadfast ADJ.
competent ADJ.	erode V.	intimidate V.	offend V.	tact N.

Exercise E: Fill-in

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

FALSE
FALSE
FALSE
FALSE
FALSE
FALSE

36. I hate copying a paper over; it's such _____.
37. Every game that I lost helped to _____ my confidence just a little more.
38. As a _____ to draw a fox away from her nest, a bird might pretend her wing is broken.
39. You have to be a _____ carpenter to build a sturdy house.
40. It is selfish to _____ supplies just for yourself when everyone needs them.
41. Pears are never more _____ than they are at this time of year.
42. Georgia was _____ when she found out she had won the contest.
43. Yoshi ran back into the school to _____ his forgotten backpack.
44. It would have shown _____ to say "I think you can do better" instead of "Gosh, that was horrible!"
45. A strange noise made me _____ as I started to go into the dark basement.
46. If we let the other team _____ us, we won't have the confidence we need to play well.
47. Jenny's teachers _____ her for trying even though she doesn't always get A's.
48. Ted never gives up because he has the _____ belief that he will someday succeed.
49. You will probably _____ the person who gave you a gift if you just toss it aside after opening it.
50. It is often easier to use a _____ than to think of a fresh, new way to say something.



"Happily ever after? That's a cliché. Excuse my lack of tact."



"Drudgery? You think you had drudgery? Ha! Honey, I'll show you drudgery!"



"I am jubilant to see that your love has remained steadfast. Cheers!"



"My dear girl, I do hope our tiny misunderstanding will not erode our relationship. Please do call soon, my darling. Your stepsisters and I miss you terribly."