

Lesson 20

anguish ANG•gwish NOUN

great pain or suffering of body or mind
[We waited in *anguish* to find out if anyone had been saved.]

billow BIL•oh

NOUN a great wave [The *billow* that hit our boat nearly sank it.]

VERB 1. to roll in great waves or clouds
[Look at the ocean *billow*.]

VERB 2. to swell out [The sheets on the clothesline *billow* in the wind.]

dwindle DWIN•dul VERB

to keep on becoming smaller or less [Don't allow your savings to *dwindle* away by making unimportant purchases.]

enable en•AY•bul VERB

to make able; to provide with strength, power, ability, or opportunity (to do something) [That scholarship will *enable* her to go to college.]

grievance GREEV•unce NOUN

something that one is angry or hurt about because of feeling that it is unfair; a complaint about a real or imagined wrong [Any worker here can talk to the boss about any *grievance* he or she has about work.]

grope GROPE VERB

1. to feel or search about blindly or uncertainly
[I had to *grope* my way down the hall in the dark.]

2. to search for an answer or a solution in an uncertain manner [I didn't know what to say in answer and had to *grope* for the right words to use.]

hence HENCE ADVERB

1. therefore; as a result; so [The boxes were large and *hence* awkward to carry.]

2. from this time forward; from now [“Come back six months *hence*,” said the dentist.]

hover HUV•ur VERB

1. to remain in or near one place in the air [A hummingbird can *hover* by a flower as it feeds.]

2. to remain in one place or stay very close by [Parents often *hover* near their sick child.]

mockery MOK•ur•ee NOUN

the act of mocking, or making fun of someone or something [The children's *mockery* of the boy's limp hurt his feelings.]

nonetheless nun•thuh•LES ADVERB

in spite of that [The dog wagged its tail, but I was scared of it *nonetheless*.]

pauper PAW•pur NOUN

one who is entirely without money; a very poor person [The rich man gave some coins to the *pauper*.]

pell-mell PEL•MEL ADVERB

1. in a jumbled or confused way [Don't throw the seeds *pell-mell* into the garden.]

2. in reckless haste [Hearing a scary sound, Byron ran *pell-mell* down the dark street.]

perchance pur•CHANCE ADVERB

perhaps [*Perchance* we'll find ourselves on the same team.]

query KWHR•ee

NOUN a request for information; a question [I responded to Jess's *query* by telling him that the rehearsal would be at four o'clock.]

VERB to ask a question or questions [I need to *query* the clerk about the price of this jacket.]

tyrant TY•runt NOUN

1. a ruler who has complete control; a cruel ruler [The *tyrant* was fond of throwing people into the dungeon.]

2. anyone who uses power in a cruel or unfair way [Our landlady is a *tyrant* who won't let us hang pictures, paint a wall, or have any kind of pet at all.]

Lesson 21

adapt uh•DAPT VERB

1. to make suitable by changing or adjusting [Let's *adapt* this book to make it into a play.]
2. to adjust (oneself) to a new situation [After growing up on a farm, it took me a while to *adapt* to life in the city.]

boisterous BOY•stur•us ADJECTIVE

noisy and high-spirited [Children can be *boisterous* when school lets out.]

crave KRAVE VERB

to want very greatly; to long for [If I go several weeks without pizza, I begin to *crave* it.]

dilemma dih•LEM•uh NOUN

a problem involving a difficult choice [My *dilemma* was that there were bears in the woods and snakes on the riverbank, and I had to go one way or the other.]

haphazard hap•HAZ•urd ADJECTIVE

happening by accident or chance; not done according to a plan [My brother's *haphazard* grocery shopping resulted in our having twelve boxes of cereal but no milk.]

hesitant HEZ•uh•tunt ADJECTIVE

tending to hesitate; not sure what to do [*Hesitant* about which way to turn, Ed just stood on the corner for several minutes.]

hoax HOAX NOUN

a trick or made-up story that is meant to deceive, especially in fun [I shortened my brother's favorite pants as a *hoax* to make him think he was getting taller.]

implement IM•pluh•munt NOUN

a tool or instrument [I need a shovel or other *implement* to move this dirt.]

legible LEJ•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

easy to read; plain and clear [I know my handwriting is not very *legible*.]

memorable MEM•ur•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

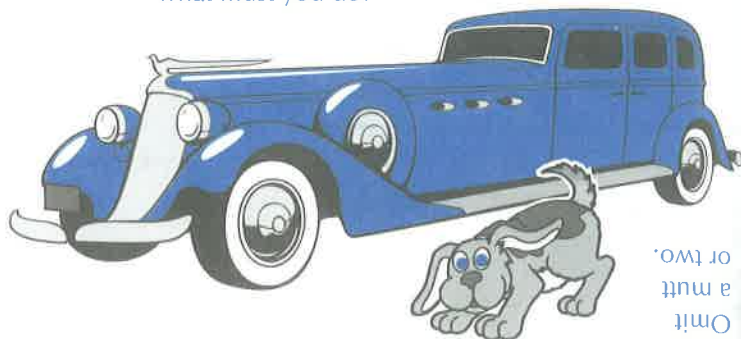
worth remembering; important [My first sight of the Grand Canyon was a *memorable* moment.]

omit oh•MIT VERB

to leave out [If you *omit* your address on the form, you won't get a reply.]

Question:

If you have ten dogs and they won't all fit in the car, what must you do?



Answer:
Omit
a mutt
or two.

persist pur•SIST VERB

1. to stick to something; to refuse to give up [A saying that encourages people to *persist* is, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."]
2. to last or stay [If the heat and dryness *persist*, there will be a water shortage.]

quest KWEST

NOUN 1. a seeking, search, or hunt [The hungry boy went on a *quest* for food.]

NOUN 2. a journey in search of adventure [The brave knight set forth on a *quest*.]

VERB to seek; to search [We must *quest* for the truth.]

ramble RAM•bul VERB

1. to walk aimlessly; to wander [I love to *ramble* through the countryside.]
2. to talk or write in a wandering manner [Don't *ramble* on and on; get to the point!]

sparse SPARCE ADJECTIVE

thinly scattered; not close together [Trees are *sparse* on Africa's grasslands.]

Lesson 22

extract ek•STRAKT VERB

1. to pull out; to draw out [I hope the dentist doesn't need to *extract* my tooth.]
2. to get out by pressing or squeezing [Wring the towel to *extract* water from it.]

frail FRAIL ADJECTIVE

1. slender and delicate; weak [My uncle's illness has left him so *frail* that he can't walk.]
2. easily broken or damaged [That old chair is too *frail* to support my weight.]

gawk GAWK VERB

to stare rudely or stupidly because of curiosity or amazement [I didn't want everyone to know I was a tourist, so I tried not to *gawk* at the unusual clothes and buildings.]

ingenious in•JEEN•yus ADJECTIVE

1. very clever and inventive [George Washington was an *ingenious* military leader.]
2. cleverly planned and made [This *ingenious* tool can get the top off any jar.]

insistent in•SIS•tunt ADJECTIVE

demanding strongly and, usually, repeatedly [My brother was *insistent* about wanting to go, so we took him with us.]

interrogate in•TAIR•uh•gate VERB

to ask questions of; to examine or get information from by asking questions [The lawyer will *interrogate* the witness.]

irreplaceable ih•rih•PLAY•suh•bul

ADJECTIVE that cannot be replaced [An original painting is *irreplaceable*.]

lair LAIR NOUN

the bed or resting place of a wild animal [The fox returned to its *lair* every night.]

luminous LOO•muh•nus ADJECTIVE

giving off light; shining [The stars are *luminous*.]

morsel MOR•sul NOUN

1. a small bite or bit of food [He barely ate a *morsel*.]
2. any small amount or piece [I haven't a *morsel* of energy left.]

neutral NOO•trul ADJECTIVE

not joining either side in a disagreement or war [Many countries remained *neutral* in the war.]

sullen SUL•un ADJECTIVE

silent and unfriendly because one feels angry, bitter, or hurt [When Ethan doesn't get what he wants, he becomes *sullen*.]

sultry SUL•tree ADJECTIVE

very hot and damp, without a breeze [On a *sultry* day, the beach is very crowded.]

surge SURJ

NOUN 1. a large wave of water or its violent rushing motion [The *surge* knocked us over.]

NOUN 2. any sudden, strong rush [The *surge* of the crowd nearly crushed us.]

VERB to move in a surge [The fans at the stadium *surged* around us.]

vengeance VEN•junce NOUN

the act of getting even for a wrong; punishment in return for harm done [When I insulted Ron, he took *vengeance* by embarrassing me.]

THE PATH IN THE WOODS PART 1



A girl walks sullenly down a path. It's a sultry evening, and she is hot, lost, tired, and hungry. ("Is that tasty-looking morsel a mushroom or a rock? Yuck! A toad! Ohhh.") She goes on.

Lesson 23

accusation ak•yoo•ZAY•shun NOUN

a claim that someone has done something wrong [Just because someone makes an *accusation* doesn't mean that it's true.]

alter ALL•tur VERB

to make something different without changing it into something else [A tailor can *alter* clothing so that it fits better.]

benefactor ben•uh•FAK•tur NOUN

one who does good to another; one who gives a gift [An unnamed *benefactor* donated many boxes of books to our library.]

dilapidated dih•LAP•uh•day•tid ADJECTIVE

falling apart, especially from being neglected [The shed was so *dilapidated*, it looked ready to fall down.]

fickle FIK•ul ADJECTIVE

tending to change frequently; not dependable [My *fickle* cat often turns up her nose at food she loved just the day before.]

negligence NEG•lih•jence NOUN

the failure to give the proper attention or care to something [The poor condition of the park is the result of the city's *negligence*.]

optimist OP•tuh•mist NOUN

a person who looks on the bright side and tends to think that everything will turn out for the best [My sister the *optimist* sees one snowflake and starts thinking about sledding and snowballs.]

pessimist PES•uh•mist NOUN

a person who sees the worst in every situation and tends to think that everything will turn out badly [My brother the *pessimist* sees a snowflake and starts worrying about getting cold and wet.]

rational RASH•un•ul ADJECTIVE

able to think in a careful way without being controlled by emotion; acting in a reasonable way [People who lose their tempers are not *rational*.]

savor SAY•vur VERB

to enjoy to the fullest [I *savor* every moment I'm horseback riding.]

smug SMUG ADJECTIVE

too pleased or satisfied with oneself [Sally never seems surprised by praise; she always looks *smug*.]



Sally was smug, but Timmy waited for *his* grade with more tentative feelings.

tentative TEN•tuh•tiv ADJECTIVE

uncertain; not definite or final [We made *tentative* plans for a picnic, but everything depends on the weather.]

unaccountable un•uh•KOWN•tuh•bul

ADJECTIVE not possible to explain; strange [We saw an *unaccountable* light in the sky and wondered if it was a UFO.]

urban UR•bun ADJECTIVE

having to do with the city [Urban areas offer museums, shows, and great restaurants as well as crowding, traffic jams, and dirty air.]

verify VAIR•uh•fy VERB

to prove the truth of [Do you have a doctor's note to *verify* that you were absent due to illness?]

Lesson 24

bliss BLIS NOUN

great happiness; perfect joy [I awoke on the first day of vacation with a sense of *bliss*.]

confidential kon•fuh•DEN•shul ADJECTIVE

spoken or written as a secret [What I'm telling you is *confidential*, so keep it between us.]

drawback DRAW•bak NOUN

a disadvantage; anything that makes something less satisfactory [A *drawback* to a Tuesday night party is that no one can stay up late.]

elegant EL•uh•gunt ADJECTIVE

beautiful in a simple and graceful way; classy [The *elegant* dress revealed Nicole's talents as a designer.]

extinguish ek•STING•gwish VERB

to put out, as a fire; to put an end to [If it rains, that will *extinguish* both the fire and my hopes for a warm night.]

finicky FIN•uh•kee ADJECTIVE

very choosy; picky [My cousins are *finicky* about what they will eat.]

haggle HAG•ul VERB

to argue over price [Some people hate shopping for a car because it is common to have to *haggle* over the price.]

jeer JEER VERB

to make sounds or speak in a way that makes fun of someone or something [Did you hear the crowd *jeer* when I missed my sixth free throw in a row?]

lament luh•MENT

NOUN an expression of deep sorrow [I heard the child's *lament* when she realized that her mother had left.]

VERB to express deep sorrow; to mourn; to regret [When she retires, we will *lament* the loss of Ms. Riddle, who is the best teacher in the school.]

notorious no•TOR•ee•us ADJECTIVE

famous for something bad [Mr. Hicks groaned when he saw that the most *notorious* student in school would be in his class.]

peril PAIR•ul NOUN

danger [The climber was in great *peril* as she inched her way along the ledge.]

ploy PLOY NOUN

a trick that is meant to get the better of someone or to fool someone into doing something [His promise to help me later was just a *ploy* to get my help when he needed it.]

rash RASH ADJECTIVE

hasty and not thought out [She made a *rash* statement that she was soon sorry for.]

strenuous STREN•yoo•us ADJECTIVE

requiring much energy and strength [After Gina's operation, the doctor told her not to take part in *strenuous* activity.]

whim WIM NOUN

a sudden wish that is not based in need or deep feeling [I bought the purple baseball cap on a *whim*.]

CHEERS

Some people say bungee-jumping is a sport that brings bliss.



JEERS

Others say it is not a sport at all and that it puts people in peril.

Lesson 25

administer *ad•MIN•us•tur* VERB

1. to manage; to direct the affairs of [Who will *administer* the baseball league at the park?]
2. to carry out; to give; to supply [Emergency rooms can *administer* medical help quickly.]

barbaric *bar•BAIR•ik* ADJECTIVE

uncivilized; crude and cruel [Whipping someone as a punishment seems very *barbaric* to me.]

chipper *CHIP•ur* ADJECTIVE

cheerful and energetic [You look *chipper*!]

cluster *KLUS•tur*

NOUN a number of things growing, collected, or lying together [A *cluster* of tulips grew beside the front door.]

VERB to grow or gather in a cluster [Children often *cluster* in the park after school.]

consecutive *kun•SEK•yoo•tiv* ADJECTIVE

following in regular order without a break [The temperature was below zero for eight *consecutive* days.]

culprit *KUL•prit* NOUN

one guilty of a crime or wrongdoing [The *culprit* was captured after a police chase.]

dispute *dis•PYOOT*

NOUN an argument; a debate [There was a *dispute* over the umpire's call.]

VERB to question or deny the truth or rightness of [Do you *dispute* my statement?]

ember *EM•bur* NOUN

a glowing piece of coal or wood in the ashes from a fire [A single *ember* can start a huge forest fire.]

jest *JEST*

NOUN a joke, amusing remark, or playful act [He made a *jest* about my appearance.]

VERB to say something funny; to joke [People are more likely to *jest* when they're in a good mood.]

materialize *muh•TEER•ee•ul•ize* VERB

1. to become actual or real [I fear my dream won't *materialize*.]
2. to give something a physical form or to take on a physical form [With her knitting needles, my aunt rapidly made a scarf *materialize* from a ball of yarn.]

omen *OH•mun* NOUN

anything that is supposed to be a sign of a future event, whether good or bad [Are you one of the people who think that breaking a mirror is a bad *omen*?]

spendthrift *SPEND•thrift*

NOUN a person who spends his or her money carelessly [The *spendthrift* went bankrupt.]

ADJECTIVE wasteful with one's money [She'll regret her *spendthrift* ways.]

tier *TEER* NOUN

one of a series of layers or rows, arranged one above another [We sat in the second *tier* of seats.]

vegetation *veh•juh•TAY•shun* NOUN

things growing from the soil; plant life [The yard is covered in thick *vegetation*.]

writhe *RITHE* VERB

to twist and turn; to twist about [Watching the dancers *writhe*, I thought they looked as if they were in great pain.]

THE PATH IN THE WOODS PART 2



Three travelers follow the path. One speaks in a chipper voice. ("Why is it night? Are we almost home? There's a toad! Are toads vegetation?") A tired voice replies. ("No, Teddy.")