

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

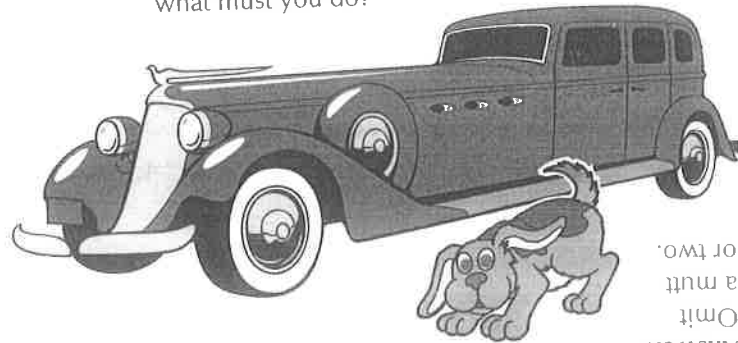
worth remembering; important [My first sight of the Grand Canyon was a *memorable* moment.]

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, "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 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.]

Exercise A: Synonyms

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

1. letting off steam; rough-and-tumble; raising the roof

2. dragging one's feet; stalling for time; hanging back

3. give one's right arm for; itch for; ache for; hunger for

4. nose around; get on the trail of; leave no stone unturned

5. a practical joke; just make-believe; hocus-pocus

6. very impressive; staying on one's mind

7. keep at it; stick to it; never say die



Some people **ramble** on all fours, and some **ramble** on and on.

Exercise B: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each question.

8. Do quitters **persist**? YES NO
9. Are all **quests** successful? YES NO
10. Is a tweezers an **implement**? YES NO
11. Do you erase a word to make it **legible**? YES NO
12. Does a person in a hurry tend to **ramble**? YES NO
13. Does being in a **dilemma** make a person happy? YES NO
14. Will your glass hold more to drink if you **omit** the ice? YES NO
15. If you shorten jeans to make them into shorts, do you **adapt** them? YES NO
16. When the fans in the bleachers are **sparse**, can you find a place to sit? YES NO



Exercise C: Antonyms

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

17. add; put in

18. eager; determined

19. thick; crowded; packed

20. forgettable; ordinary

21. careful; deliberate

22. messy; scrawled

23. dislike; avoid

Exercise D: If . . .

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

- 24. If I sing at the top of my lungs, jump around, and use the wastebasket for a drum, I am being
- 25. If I have to choose either to jump out a high window or to stay in a burning building, I'm faced with a
- 26. If I can't quite decide whether to go ahead and do something or not, I'm
- 27. If I prefer one of my pens to any other, then I have a favorite writing
- 28. If I scatter a few seeds here and a handful there and a few someplace else, my planting is
- 29. If I take the long way around every chance I get and don't want to be hurried, I like to
- 30. If I bandage my leg and use crutches when there's nothing at all wrong with me, that's a
- 31. If I just can't get used to something new, I'm having trouble learning to

Exercise E: Other Forms of Words

Add **-y** or **-ly** to **Words** that are adjectives to make adverbs that answer these questions. (Check a dictionary for the correct way to spell each adverb.)

- 32. How do the fans of the winning teams at sports events usually behave?

- 33. How should warning signs be printed to make sure people understand them?

- 34. How do you put things away if you always simply shove them into the closest drawer?

- 35. How is Alaska populated? (*Clue: It's huge but has very few people.*)

Question:
What do you call it when some joker with a fake flower squirts water in people's faces?



Answer: A hoax that soaks folks

Quick LIST

- adapt** V.
- boisterous** ADJ.
- crave** V.
- dilemma** N.
- haphazard** ADJ.
- hesitant** ADJ.
- hoax** N.
- implement** N.
- legible** ADJ.
- memorable** ADJ.
- omit** V.
- persist** V.
- quest** N., V.
- ramble** V.
- sparse** ADJ.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. The hair on my grandpa's head is _____ and will soon be gone.
37. It's all right to be _____ at a party, as long as your activities don't disturb the neighbors.
38. If your cough and fever _____ for more than a couple of days, you should see a doctor.
39. A poem I read a year ago was so _____ that I can still quote lines from it.
40. A spoon is a better _____ than a fork for eating cereal.
41. The words carved on the stone were no longer _____ because they had been rubbed almost smooth.
42. Let's carry some sandwiches and just _____ through the woods until we get hungry.
43. I was in a _____ when I had to decide whether to hurt my friend's feelings or to tell a lie.
44. Our dog sheds every spring to _____ to the hot weather that's coming.
45. Pillows arranged under my blanket worked as a _____ to make my sister think I was in bed and sound asleep.
46. Hundreds of books were stacked in a _____ way all over the library tables.
47. Some mornings I am so tired that I _____ just a few more minutes of sleep.
48. Many an early explorer went on a _____ for gold in the Southwest, but most did not find it.
49. If you want to learn, you can't be _____ about asking questions when you don't understand something.
50. I'm so angry with Ken that I plan to _____ any mention of him from my thank-you speech.



Adapting to a new place



Adapting to getting older



Adapting to technology



Adapting to new rules



Adapting to being omitted