

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*.]



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?]

Exercise A: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each question.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. On the day of a track meet, are the plans for the meet usually tentative ? | YES | NO |
| 2. Would you savor a really delicious dinner? | YES | NO |
| 3. Does a pessimist feel enthusiastic and eager? | YES | NO |
| 4. Do people use I.D. cards to verify who they are? | YES | NO |
| 5. Is it negligence to feed, walk, and play with a dog? | YES | NO |
| 6. Is it difficult to alter something written in pencil? | YES | NO |
| 7. Can you expect to hear accusations in court? | YES | NO |
| 8. Do you expect to find cows in an urban area? | YES | NO |
| 9. Is it a good idea to count on a fickle friend? | YES | NO |



Nigel could do some amazing tricks, but a moment of negligence during takeoff . . .



. . . brought an unexpected landing.

Exercise B: If . . .

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence. This exercise continues on the next page.

10. If I'm often proud of myself and think that most people wish they were as special as I am, I'm
11. If you say I took your book but then you find it in your locker, you'd probably regret your
12. If I like someone best on Monday but someone else on Thursday and have a new best friend the next week, I'm
13. If I'm gloomy and hopeless and usually assume I'll lose or fail or make mistakes or be blamed for things, I'm a
14. If someone buys a washing machine and dryer for a homeless shelter, that person is a
15. If something is mysterious, and you can't imagine what made it happen, it's
16. If I think I might be able to go to the movies but I'm not sure, my plans to meet you there are
17. If I believe that life is an adventure and tomorrow's going to be even better than today, I'm a real

18. If you think things through and are ruled by your head, not your heart, you're a ___ person. _____

19. If I say it's raining and you doubt me, I could open the curtains and point outdoors to ___ it. _____

Exercise C: Nicknames

Write the **Word** that describes or names the person who would have each nickname.



20. Charitable
Charlie



21. Hopeful
Hannah



22. Gloomy
Gilbert



23. Downtown
Danny

Exercise D: Synonyms

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

24. appreciate; like _____

25. change; adjust _____

26. donor; giver _____

27. carelessness; neglect _____

28. sensible; wise _____

29. run-down; broken-down _____

Exercise E: Antonyms

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

30. constant; unchanging _____

31. firm; sure _____

32. undamaged; well-kept _____

33. insecure; humble _____

34. rural; country _____

35. ordinary; understandable _____

Quick List

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| accusation N. | negligence N. | smug ADJ. |
| alter V. | optimist N. | tentative ADJ. |
| benefactor N. | pessimist N. | unaccountable ADJ. |
| dilapidated ADJ. | rational ADJ. | urban ADJ. |
| fickle ADJ. | savor V. | verify V. |

Exercise F: Fill-In

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

36. The drama club members need a _____ to buy them new lights.
37. There are many apartment buildings in my _____ neighborhood.
38. The result of my _____ is that I have a garden filled with weeds and dead flowers.
39. We decided to _____ our plans and go bowling instead of to a movie.
40. An _____ who is late for the bus believes there's a good chance the bus will also be late.
41. The doctor measured me to _____ how much I'd grown in the past year.
42. It's difficult to remain _____ when you're in love, really excited, or mad as a wet hen.
43. My answer has to be _____ because I'm just not sure yet about the situation.
44. Jody's so _____ about her talent that she figures no one else has a chance in the contest.
45. I am angry about your _____ that I cheated, and I'm sure you can't prove it.
46. Greg is such a _____ that whenever the phone rings, he thinks it's bad news.
47. My notebook is so _____ that the pages are falling out and the cover's almost gone.
48. For some _____ reason, my cat sometimes leaps suddenly in the air.
49. Let's not go in for dinner yet; let's _____ the sunset for a while.
50. My brother had a _____ girlfriend . . . but not for very long!

Since Opal had never bowled before, her optimism was quite unaccountable. On the other hand, Pepe was pessimistic about his new teammate and couldn't bear even to watch or listen. Later, Opal, Pepe, and the whole team savored their victory.

