

Lesson 6

ancestry AN•ses•tree NOUN

all of a person's ancestors; one's past family
[I am of Russian *ancestry*.]

balk BAWK VERB

1. to stop and stubbornly refuse to move or act [When horses *balk*, it can be hard to get them going.]
2. to hesitate due to reluctance [If you dislike a plan, you may *balk* at going along with it.]

cordial KOR•jul ADJECTIVE

warm and friendly [When our guests arrive, greet them in a *cordial* manner.]

cycle SY•kul

NOUN a series of events that occur regularly in a definite order [The washer goes through a *cycle* that includes rinsing the clothes.]

VERB to pass through or move in a cycle [The days *cycle* on—morning, afternoon, night—and soon a year has passed.]

daze DAZE

NOUN a confused, blurry state of mind [When I first woke up after my operation, I was in a *daze*.]

VERB to confuse, shock, or stun [Banging your head can *daze* you, but so can receiving truly amazing news.]

dilute dih•LOOT VERB

to thin down or weaken by mixing with water or another liquid [Melting ice will *dilute* a drink.]

harass HAIR•us or huh•RAS VERB

to disturb, worry, or trouble, especially by continued attacks or through constant annoyance [Some bill collectors *harass* people who owe money by calling them late at night.]

inconceivable in•kun•SEEV•uh•bul

ADJECTIVE that cannot be thought of, imagined, or believed [Why anyone would commit such a terrible crime was *inconceivable* to me.]

mediocre mee•dee•OH•kur ADJECTIVE

neither good nor bad; ordinary
[It was a *mediocre* lunch; I ate it, but I didn't enjoy it.]

opinionated oh•PIN•yun•ay•tud ADJECTIVE

stubbornly sticking to one's opinions; unreasonably sure that one's own opinions are correct [She is too *opinionated* to listen to any advice from me.]

sanctuary SANK•choo•air•ee NOUN

1. a place where one can find safety or shelter; also, the safety found there [People from the country that was being bombed looked for *sanctuary* in a neighboring nation.]
2. a place where birds and animals are protected from hunters [We visited the bird *sanctuary* near Riverside Park.]
3. the part of a church or temple used for worship [There will be a wedding today in the *sanctuary*.]

shimmer SHIM•ur VERB

to shine in an unsteady manner; to gleam faintly [Have you ever seen a fish jump out of a lake and *shimmer* in the sunlight?]

studious STOO•dee•us ADJECTIVE

devoted to and fond of study; devoted to gaining knowledge [Her *studious* habits make her an excellent pupil.]

substantial sub•STAN•shul ADJECTIVE

1. strong and solid [Stand on something *substantial* that will support your weight.]
2. more than average; large [We won't go hungry; we have a *substantial* amount of food.]
3. real or actual [Is that just a suspicion, or do you have *substantial* information?]

wary WAIR•ee ADJECTIVE

very careful to avoid danger; cautious [All children should be taught to be *wary* of strangers.]

Exercise A: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question.

1. What does a satin dress or a string of pearls do when light hits it?

2. What word describes many people who get good grades in school?

3. What would you call something if you simply couldn't imagine it?

4. What do cats, people, mice, and foxes look for when they are being chased?

5. What could you do to thicken pancake batter so you could pour it more easily?

6. What does a traffic light do as it goes from green to yellow to red?

Exercise B: Synonyms

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

7. glimmer; twinkle _____
8. protection; shelter _____
9. pester; bother _____
10. outgoing; pleasant _____
11. alert; watchful _____
12. average; fair; so-so _____
13. unbelievable; impossible _____

Exercise C: Antonyms

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

14. fabulous; wonderful; great _____
15. rude; cold; mean _____
16. descendants; offspring _____
17. reckless; daring; confident _____
18. proceed; continue; go _____
19. rickety; wobbly; weak _____
20. cooperative; flexible _____
21. reasonable; understandable _____

When anything repeats a cycle, it recycles. You've seen the symbol that encourages people to recycle paper, glass, metal, and other materials. It's a circle of arrows.

This symbol represents the cycle that these materials pass through. First, we take a natural resource, such as trees, to make a product, such as paper. Second, we use the product.



Third, we send it back to a factory to be made into another product. Then the cycle starts over again.

Sometimes, the arrows are said to represent the slogan, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." This is a short way of reminding people to use less stuff, find ways to use it again, and then recycle it.



Exercise D: Other Forms of Words

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

- ___ 22. When you speak **cordially** to someone, you usually
A. frown. B. stammer. C. smile.
- ___ 23. An animal that is known for being **balky** is
A. a whale. B. a mule. C. an owl.
- ___ 24. You would react to something **warily** if it made you feel
A. nervous. B. eager. C. confident.
- ___ 25. One person who seems to enjoy engaging in **harassment** is
A. a bully. B. a joker. C. an athlete.
- ___ 26. Which of the following are **cyclic**?
A. accidents B. the seasons C. grandparents
- ___ 27. In answer to a question, a **dazed** person is most likely to say,
A. "Huh?" B. "I'll consider it." C. "None of your business."
- ___ 28. The Pilgrims' **ancestral** home was
A. in America. B. in England. C. on the ship, the *Mayflower*.


Exercise E: What Is It?

Write the Word that each clue describes.

- 29. This is what you do to a can of frozen juice by adding water or to a cup of coffee by adding cream.
- 30. This is a condition in which someone who is awake doesn't really know what's happening.
- 31. This describes a brick building or a safe bridge, but it can also describe a feast or a fact.
- 32. This describes people who are so sure that their views are right that it's very hard to change their minds.
- 33. This is what little children often do when they're told to do something they don't want to do.
- 34. This describes those who pay attention in class, do their homework, and think that education is important.
- 35. This is your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, but it's not your brother or sister.



Some jokes are funny because they use cycles. Here is one example—an old joke that you probably know. Which part is a cycle, and what breaks the cycle?



Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Banana.
Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Banana.
Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Banana.
Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Orange.
Orange who?
Orange you glad I didn't say "banana"?

6m

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. My puppy's _____ is mixed; her mother is a spaniel, and her father is a beagle.
37. The criminals fled from the police, seeking _____ wherever they could find it.
38. If you have a _____ debt, it will probably take you a long time to repay it.
39. The life _____ of a frog includes three stages—egg, tadpole, and adult.
40. Some boys in our neighborhood _____ my brother whenever he leaves the house, so he doesn't like to go out anymore.
41. My parents aren't satisfied if I get a _____ report card; they want to see A's and B's.
42. Both of my dogs _____ when we get near the vet's office, and I have to drag them.
43. It's hard to convince _____ people that their ideas and attitudes are not the only reasonable ideas and attitudes.
44. Seeing her home go up in flames seemed to _____ the woman, and she watched with no expression on her face.
45. Cats are usually _____ of new surroundings, and it takes a while for them to feel safe.
46. Zoey has been so _____ lately that we've seen her only at school and in the library.
47. When you make mud pies, you must _____ the mud if it's too thick; if it's too thin, you must add more dirt to it.
48. We sat out in the dark and watched moonlight _____ on the surface of the lake.
49. Since the team hadn't lost a game in three years, it was _____ that they would suddenly lose to the last-place team.
50. My friends like visiting my house because my parents are always so _____.



When you tell a joke, and your friend tells it to someone, and that person tells it again, your joke is being recycled. Start a cycle with one of these.

What do you call an ordinary frog?
A mediocre croaker

What do you call a nervous, yellow songbird?
A wary canary

What do you call a fainter gleam?
A dimmer shimmer

Quick LIST

ancestry N.	cycle N., V.	harass V.	opinionated ADJ.	studious ADJ.
balk V.	daze N., V.	inconceivable ADJ.	sanctuary N.	substantial ADJ.
cordial ADJ.	dilute V.	mediocre ADJ.	shimmer V.	wary ADJ.

6th