

Lesson 11

absolute AB•suh•loot ADJECTIVE
complete; entire; total [My parents insist on *absolute* obedience.]

blunder BLUN•dur
NOUN a foolish or stupid mistake [I made an embarrassing *blunder*.]
VERB 1. to make a blunder [I hoped I wouldn't *blunder* during my speech.]

VERB 2. to move clumsily or carelessly [Make sure not to *blunder* off the path.]

calamity kuh•LAM•uh•tee NOUN
a terrible event that causes great harm or destruction [The hurricane was a *calamity*.]



Question:
What happened when the hiker blundered into the path of the porcupine?
Answer: It was an absolute calamity.

devour dih•VOWR VERB
1. to eat, especially to eat very hungrily [I will *devour* my lunch today.]
2. to destroy by using up [Active children can *devour* every last bit of a parent's energy.]

enchant en•CHANT VERB
1. to cast a spell over; to use magic on [In the story, a wizard was able to *enchant* a prince.]
2. to delight greatly; to charm [Sara's sweetness and humor *enchant* all who meet her.]

illiteracy ih•LIT•ur•uh•see NOUN
lack of education; especially, not knowing how to read and write [My brother teaches adults who want to overcome *illiteracy*.]

incite in•SITE VERB
to urge or stir to action [I hope my speech can *incite* people to work on solving the problem.]

instantaneous in•stun•TAY•nee•us ADJECTIVE
done or happening in an instant [The effect was *instantaneous*.]

presumption prih•ZUMP•shun NOUN
1. a belief; something that is taken for granted; something one presumes [My *presumption* is that there will be food at the party.]
2. annoying or unpleasant boldness or nerve [Mark had the *presumption* to get right in our car even though he hadn't been offered a ride.]

refuge REF•yooj NOUN
1. protection from danger, difficulty, or annoyance [We found *refuge* from the rain.]
2. a place of shelter or safety [Our cat's *refuge* from the visiting dog was a closet shelf.]

segment SEG•munt NOUN
one of the parts into which something is divided or can be separated [Could I have a *segment* of that orange?]

strew STROO VERB
1. to spread about here and there [The wind will *strew* this litter all over the park.]
2. to cover with something scattered or sprinkled [If you *strew* sawdust on spilled oil, it will soak up the oil.]

supplement SUP•luh•ment
NOUN something added to make a thing more complete or better [Our Sunday newspaper has a *supplement* that gives information about local entertainment.]
VERB to add to or complete [You could *supplement* the speech with a video.]

uncanny un•KAN•ee ADJECTIVE
so remarkable as to seem unnatural; very strange; mysterious [My dog has an *uncanny* ability to know when I'm sad.]

venture VEN•chur
NOUN a risky activity or undertaking [The business *venture* failed.]
VERB 1. to dare to say or do [I'm not sure, but I'll *venture* a guess.]
VERB 2. to go in spite of some risk [Let's *venture* up the mountain.]

Lesson 12

adequate AD•ih•kwit ADJECTIVE
good enough for the situation [I'm not the best pitcher on the team, but I'm *adequate* for today's game.]

agony AG•uh•nee NOUN
great pain of body or mind [A broken leg can cause *agony*.]

audible AW•duh•bul ADJECTIVE
heard or capable of being heard [The cheeping of the baby birds was barely *audible* from the ground.]

brawny BRAW•nee ADJECTIVE
muscular; strong [The *brawny* lumberjack could swing an ax as if it were a candy cane.]

cantankerous kan•TANG•kur•us ADJECTIVE
never agreeable; difficult to deal with [The guy at the bookstore is so *cantankerous*, I hate going in there.]

decade DEK•ade NOUN
a ten-year period [The sixties was a *decade* of restlessness and change.]

exquisite EX•kwih•zit ADJECTIVE
1. extremely lovely; delicately beautiful [Your roses are *exquisite*.]
2. highly admirable; excellent [His manners are *exquisite*.]

ferocious fuh•ROH•shus ADJECTIVE
savagely cruel; extremely fierce or violent [A hungry lion is a *ferocious* beast.]

flourish FLUR•ish
NOUN a fancy or showy motion; a dramatic, sweeping movement [I set the decorated cake down on the table with a *flourish*.]
VERB to grow and develop well; to be successful [Grandma is a wonderful gardener, and all her plants *flourish*.]

hearsay HEER•say NOUN
gossip; something that is not known directly but from being repeated [You shouldn't believe what Jeri tells you about Hank; it's only *hearsay*.]

impartial im•PAR•shul ADJECTIVE
fair; not taking one side or the other [Lawyers aren't supposed to be *impartial*, but judges are.]

mar MAR VERB
to damage; to keep from being perfect [Be careful not to *mar* the finish of the car by scratching it.]

opaque oh•PAKE ADJECTIVE
blocking light; not capable of being seen through [An *opaque* paint will cover those marks completely.]

ransack RAN•sak VERB
to search thoroughly through [If you're going to *ransack* that drawer, put everything back!]

texture TEX•chur NOUN
the surface qualities of something; the way something feels to the touch [The *texture* of the cloth was rough and a little scratchy.]

A VERY SILLY (AND TOTALLY MADE-UP) STORY ABOUT HEARSAY

In 1883, a kind-hearted rancher named Billie B. Boop accidentally invented a new "language." To keep her sheep from feeling mental agony, Boop told her ranch hands that it was time to "ear-shay the eep-shay." The hands liked this way of talking and called it Earshay.

A decade later, a traveling salesman brought Earshay back east but mistakenly called it Hearsay. Today, that word has a different meaning, and Earshay is called Pig Latin. (Some people want Congress to pass a law to name it Sheep Latin, but that's another story.)

One of Oop-bay's
eep-shays



Lesson 13

belated *bih•LAY•tud* ADJECTIVE
too late; not on time [I missed the first act of the play because of my *belated* arrival.]

caress *kuh•RES*
VERB to stroke tenderly or lovingly [Mothers often *caress* their children to soothe them.]
NOUN a tender or loving touch [I gave the cat a *caress* as she walked past.]

convey *kun•VAY* VERB
1. to carry or transport [Many pioneers used covered wagons to *convey* their possessions and supplies.]
2. to make known; to communicate [I sent a card to *convey* my sympathy.]

exclude *ex•KLOOD* VERB
to keep out; to shut out [I'll invite the whole class because I don't want to *exclude* anyone.]

fluster *FLUS•tur* VERB
to make or become nervous and unsure [Don't let the fans' cheering *fluster* you; just concentrate on making the shot.]

frayed *FRADE* ADJECTIVE
worn thin at the edges, ragged [The collar on that old shirt is *frayed*.]

fundamental *fun•duh•MEN•tul*
ADJECTIVE basic; essential; necessary [Food is a *fundamental* need for all living things.]
NOUN something that is basic or essential; a necessity [In basketball, dribbling is a *fundamental*.]

glade *GLADE* NOUN
a grassy open space in a forest [We picnicked in the *glade*.]

illusion *ih•LOO•zhun* NOUN
1. a misleading appearance [Mirrors can create the *illusion* that a small room is big.]
2. a false idea or mistaken belief [My *illusion* that I didn't need to study was ruined by an F.]

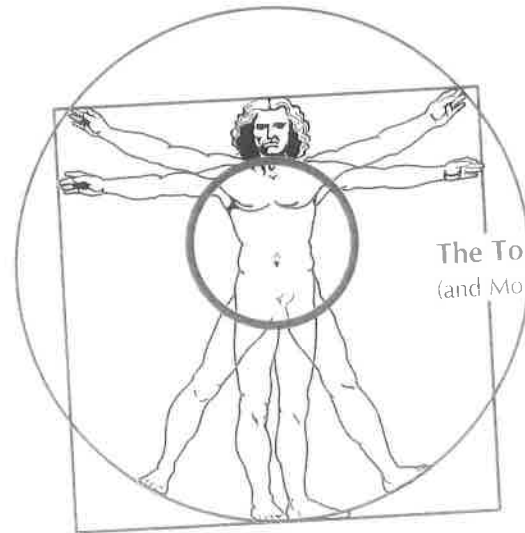
incentive *in•SEN•tuv* NOUN
something that makes one take action or cause one to work harder [My *incentive* for mowing the lawn was the payment that my dad offered me.]

remote *rih•MOTE* ADJECTIVE
1. far off in place or time; not near or recent [He has a *remote* cabin in the woods.]
2. slight or faint [There is only a *remote* possibility that we'll win.]

skimp *SKIMP* VERB
to spend or use as little as possible [If I really *skimp*, I can make this money last all week.]

strive *STRIVE* VERB
to try hard; to make great efforts [We will *strive* to do our best.]

torso *TOR•so* NOUN
the human body, not including the arms, legs, and head; trunk [Twist your *torso* to the left.]



The Torso
(and More So)

venomous *VEN•uh•mus* ADJECTIVE
1. poisonous [Honeybees are *venomous*, which is why a bee sting swells and hurts.]
2. hateful; evil; showing ill will [When I proved that Lisa was lying, she gave me a *venomous* look.]

Lesson 14

abide uh•BIDE VERB

1. to bear patiently; to put up with [I cannot *abide* loud music.]
2. to last; to stay or remain [The young couple thought their love would *abide* forever.]
3. to accept; to obey or follow; to remain faithful to (used with *by*) [We must *abide* by the rules.]

access AK•ses NOUN

1. an approach or way to a place [The only *access* is by water.]
2. the ability or permission to approach, enter, or use [The Internet provides *access* to a great deal of information.]

chaos KAY•os NOUN

extreme confusion and disorder [Five kids playing in a room can quickly create *chaos*.]

erect ih•REKT

ADJECTIVE straight up and down [I leaned against the wall, too tired to stand *erect*.]

VERB to build [They will *erect* a tower here.]



Question:

If it took three farmhands one week to erect a barn, how long would it take six farmhands?

Answer:
No time at all, since it's already been built!

excursion ek•SKUR•zhun NOUN

a short trip for pleasure [We took a weekend *excursion*.]

gorge GORJ

NOUN a deep, narrow valley, usually steep and rocky [The trail leads through a *gorge*.]

VERB to stuff with food; to eat greedily [I always *gorge* myself when I eat at Grandma's.]

grimy GRY•mee ADJECTIVE

covered with dirt that has been rubbed into the surface; very dirty [Cleaning the fireplace left me *grimy*.]

inscription in•SKRIP•shun NOUN

1. something carved or written on a surface, especially something meant to last [There is an *inscription* on the base of the statue.]
2. a brief message written inside a book [The *inscription* said, "To Tom, on his twelfth birthday, with love from Grandma."]

intolerable in•TOL•ur•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

too hard or painful to stand; unbearable [The heat on the desert was *intolerable*.]

pulverize PUL•vur•ize VERB

1. to crush or grind into powder or dust [This machine will *pulverize* the stone.]
2. to destroy completely [The bomb will *pulverize* the target.]

qualm KWOM or KWOLM NOUN

1. a doubt or uncertainty; uneasiness (often plural) [I have *qualms* about tomorrow's test.]
2. a guilty feeling (often plural) [She is so dishonest, she tells lies without a *qualm*.]

robust roh•BUST ADJECTIVE

strong and healthy [The *robust* children ran and played.]

taut TAWT ADJECTIVE

stretched firmly; drawn tight [Keep the rope *taut* so it doesn't sag.]

throng THRONG

NOUN a large gathering; a crowd [The *throng* jammed the room.]

VERB to crowd together; to crowd into [For the championship game, thousands of fans will *throng* the gym.]

tranquil TRAN•kwul ADJECTIVE

calm; quiet; peaceful [We spent a *tranquil* hour gazing at the clouds.]

6th

Lesson 15

aspire uh•SPIRE VERB

to have an ambition for something; to desire earnestly or strive for a goal [I *aspire* to be a lawyer.]

coordinated koh•OR•duh•nay•tud ADJECTIVE

1. arranged in proper order; working well together, as of parts [We'll succeed in getting this done only if our efforts are *coordinated*.]
2. smoothly adjusted, as of muscles in producing difficult movements; not clumsy [A good dancer moves in a *coordinated* way.]

ignoramus ig•nuh•RAY•mus NOUN

one who knows nothing; an ignorant person [I'm a math whiz but a poetry *ignoramus*.]

melodious mel•OH•dee•us ADJECTIVE

sweet-sounding; pleasing to the ear; musical [That *melodious* sound is the song of a wren.]

merge MURJ VERB

to swallow up, absorb or combine, or to become absorbed in something else [Drivers need to be careful when they *merge* into the traffic on a highway.]

motive MOH•tuv NOUN

a thought, need, or feeling that makes a person act [Chuck's main *motive* for joining the team was to make new friends, not to play baseball.]

necessitate nuh•SES•uh•tate VERB

to make necessary [Breaking your leg will *necessitate* the use of crutches.]

passionate PASH•un•ut ADJECTIVE

1. having very strong feelings; enthusiastic [The people in that family are certainly a very *passionate* group.]
2. very strong; intense [He has a *passionate* desire to succeed.]

piteous PIT•ee•us ADJECTIVE

causing a feeling of pity; pitiful [The hungry kids in the news photos were a *piteous* sight.]

quibble KWIB•bul VERB

to argue over an unimportant matter [Ron and Don constantly *quibble* about things like who should turn off the light.]

random RAN•dum ADJECTIVE

with no particular order or pattern; made or done without a careful choice or plan [Each child will select a gift in a *random* fashion by reaching into the grab bag.]

rapture RAP•chur NOUN

very great joy [The beautiful music filled me with *rapture*.]

repentance ruh•PEN•tuns NOUN

sorrow for doing wrong [After Mona hurt my feelings, she tried to show her *repentance* by being really nice.]

sever SEV•ur VERB

to cut apart or separate [We used a knife to *sever* the rope.]

ultimate UL•tuh•mit ADJECTIVE

1. last or final, especially describing that which comes at the end [We worked too quickly and used poor materials, and the *ultimate* result was that our clubhouse fell down.]
2. greatest or highest possible [What is the *ultimate* speed at which this plane can fly?]

"This is Mary Sue Moss at Ultimate Shopping Center in beautiful Foggybottom. Today we're talking to random folks here at the mall. We want to hear what local shoppers feel truly passionate about. But first we have a few words from our sponsors. Stay tuned!"

