

# 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. So stay tuned!"

6/14

# Lesson 16

**ally** AL•eye NOUN

a person or nation that is on one's side [My brother and I often quarrel, but he's my *ally* if I'm really in trouble.]

**analysis** uh•NAL•uh•sis NOUN

a careful study that looks closely at a thing's parts or elements [An *analysis* of our soil showed which plants would grow well in it.]

**atrocious** uh•TROH•shus ADJECTIVE

1. extremely cruel, wicked, or brutal [Atrocious acts are committed in wartime.]
2. extremely bad; of very poor quality [My handwriting is *atrocious*; no one can read it.]

**client** KLY•unt NOUN

a customer; a person or group that uses professional services [Cora says it's her duty as a lawyer to help every *client* she has, even if she doesn't approve of that person.]

**discord** DIS•kord NOUN

disagreement and lack of harmony between persons, things, or ideas [Frequent *discord* on the city council made it almost impossible to get anything done.]

**gourmet** gor•MAY NOUN

a person who understands and enjoys fine food [Hal, who is a *gourmet*, loves fancy restaurants.]

**lenient** LEEN•ee•unt ADJECTIVE

not very strict [My parents insist on lights out by 9:00, but Henry's parents are more *lenient*.]

**petty** PET•ee ADJECTIVE

1. small and unimportant [Why argue about *petty* differences of opinion?]
2. having a mean or narrow outlook [Ralph's saying my shoes are ugly was a *petty* remark.]

**prank** PRANK NOUN

an act of mischief; a practical joke [Putting salt in the sugar bowl was his favorite *prank*.]

**pursue** pur•SOO VERB

1. to try to catch; to chase [The lion gave up and did not continue to *pursue* the antelope.]
2. to try for (a goal) [Some people *pursue* wealth their entire lives.]

**reassure** ree•uh•SHUR VERB

to restore confidence or peace of mind [I was able to *reassure* my parents that I was not hurt in the accident.]

**tarnish** TAR•nish

NOUN a dull coating that forms on metal when it is exposed to certain chemicals or to air over a period of time. [Silver polish is good at removing *tarnish*.]

VERB 1. to become dull or discolored [If you don't polish brass, it will eventually *tarnish*.]

VERB 2. to spoil the perfection of something [One mistake can *tarnish* a person's reputation.]

**theory** THEER•ee NOUN

1. an explanation based on thought; an idea for which there is some evidence and that many accept as true but has not been proven [One *theory* about why dinosaurs died off is that the climate became too cool for them to survive.]
2. an idea, belief, or opinion about something [She acted on the *theory* that children respond better to rewards than to punishments.]

**vain** VAIN ADJECTIVE

1. showing too much pride in one's abilities or appearance [Pete is so *vain* that he can't pass a mirror without looking at himself.]
2. with little or no result; not successful [We made a *vain* attempt to catch the bus.]

**vigorous** VIC•ur•us ADJECTIVE

1. full of strength or energy, physically or mentally [You need to be a *vigorous* person to work on a farm.]
2. requiring strength and energy [Chopping wood is a *vigorous* activity.]

# Lesson 17

**collaborate** kuh•LAB•uh•rate VERB  
to work together to get something done, such as a work of art, literature, or science [Mark and Celia will *collaborate* on a project for the History Fair.]

**contempt** kun•TEMPT NOUN  
scorn; a feeling that someone or something is worthless [I feel *contempt* for people who steal.]

**corrupt** kuh•RUPT  
VERB to change something that should be good or honest into something bad [Bribes can be used to *corrupt* public officials.]  
ADJECTIVE dishonest; wicked [There are very few *corrupt* judges in our country.]

**delusion** dih•LOO•zhun NOUN  
a false belief [Although Hank isn't very good at all, he has the *delusion* that he's the best player on the team.]

**efficient** ih•FISH•unt ADJECTIVE  
achieving the best results with the least waste of time or energy; capable [The police have found that using bicycles is an *efficient* way to patrol large parks.]

**eloquent** EL•uh•kwunt ADJECTIVE  
able to speak or write well, expressing thoughts and feelings effectively [Senator Jordan was so *eloquent* that audiences laughed, cried, and cheered when they heard her.]

**essential** uh•SEN•shul ADJECTIVE  
of the greatest importance; necessary [Inviting guests who get along with each other is *essential* to the success of a party.]

**fortify** FOR•tuh•fy VERB  
to make stronger or more effective [Many manufacturers *fortify* cereal with vitamins.]

**involuntary** in•VOL•un•tair•ee ADJECTIVE  
done without choice or control [Hiccuping is an *involuntary* action.]

**morale** muh•RAL NOUN  
the attitude that reflects the degree of enthusiasm, confidence, or bravery [Team *morale* was high for the championship game.]

**pathetic** puh•THET•ik ADJECTIVE  
causing one to feel pity [The cat looked *pathetic* with her tail caught in the fence.]

**prolong** pruh•LONG VERB  
to make longer in time [We were having such a good time on our camping trip that we decided to *prolong* it by two days.]

**provocation** prov•uh•KAY•shun NOUN  
a cause for a reaction, especially a cause for irritation or anger [If you feel grouchy, a slight *provocation* can make you snap at someone.]

**resent** rih•ZENT VERB  
to feel annoyed or angry about [I *resent* your suggestion that I don't know anything about soccer.]

**shrewd** SHROOD ADJECTIVE  
clever about practical things [Be careful when you bargain with Fred; he's very *shrewd*.]

## My Camping Trip, Part 1



I had looked forward to the family camping trip at Crooked Creek State Park. My morale dropped when Dad said that my brother and I had to share a tent and to collaborate in setting it up! We did it fairly efficiently, but the tent was a little shaky. My brother "fortified" it with a stick. That worked for about twelve minutes.

# Lesson 18

**agile** *Aj•ul* ADJECTIVE

able to move quickly and easily; gracefully active [Cats are *agile* creatures.]

**antic** *AN•tik* NOUN

a playful or silly act or trick (usually plural) [The puppy's *antics* are cute.]

**console** *kun•SOLE* VERB

to make (someone) feel less sad or disappointed; to comfort [I tried to *console* the unhappy child by reading him a story.]

**conspicuous** *kun•SPIK•yoo•us* ADJECTIVE

obvious; easily seen [The number above the door should be *conspicuous* so guests can find the house.]

**falsify** *FOL•suh•fy* VERB

to make something false in order to deceive [The student used a school computer to *falsify* his grade reports.]

**fleet** *FLEET* ADJECTIVE

swift; fast [She is as *fleet* as a deer.]

**gape** *GAPE* VERB

1. to stare with the mouth wide open [Seeing my mother on stilts made me *gape* in amazement.]

2. to open wide [Latch the gate, or it will *gape*.]

**infantile** *IN•fun•tile* ADJECTIVE

of or relating to infants; childish [Her tantrum was *infantile*.]

**inquisitive** *in•KWIZ•uh•tiv* ADJECTIVE

1. interested in searching for truth or knowledge [She has an *inquisitive* mind.]

2. asking too many questions about other people's business [I was annoyed by the sales clerk's *inquisitive* remarks.]

**integrity** *in•TEG•ruh•tee* NOUN

moral goodness, honesty, and sincerity [A person with *integrity* does not cheat.]

**maze** *MAZE* NOUN

a confusing network of winding paths or passages [He got lost in the *maze*.]

**mingle** *MING•gul* VERB

1. to mix together; to combine [Toss the salad to *mingle* the ingredients.]

2. to join or participate with others [During recess, children from different classes *mingle* on the playground.]

**obligation** *ob•luh•GAY•shun* NOUN

a legal or moral responsibility; that which a person must (or must not) do; duty [It is a parent's *obligation* to protect his or her children.]

**obstinate** *OB•stuh•nit* ADJECTIVE

1. unreasonably determined to have one's own way; unwilling to change one's mind or do what someone else wants [Zelda won't give in; she's too *obstinate*.]

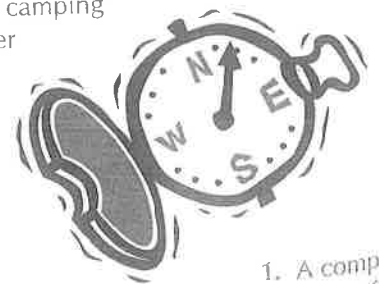
2. hard to treat, remove, or control [I can't get rid of this *obstinate* cold.]

**ordeal** *or•DEEL* NOUN

a very difficult or painful test or experience [Our long, hot hike was an *ordeal*.]

## My Camping Trip, Part 2

Camping with your family can be fun. Camping with your brother can be an ordeal. Here are four things that could make camping with your brother more bearable.



1. A compass will help you find camp after your infantile brother takes you way out in the woods and says, "Get lost."

# Lesson 19

**ascertain** as•sur•TANE VERB  
to find out for certain; to determine  
[She took apart the clock to *ascertain* which part was broken.]

**disclose** dis•KLOZE VERB  
to make known or public; to reveal  
[The candidate decided to *disclose* the fact that he had once been arrested.]

**dismay** dis•MAY  
NOUN a loss of courage or a deeply worried feeling due to being faced with trouble or danger [The farmer reacted with *dismay* to the sight of his destroyed crops.]  
VERB to fill with alarm or fear [It will *dismay* Reba to find out that the test is tomorrow.]

**douse** DOWCE VERB  
to plunge or push into a liquid or to pour a liquid over; to soak [A quick, mean way to wake someone is to *douse* his face with water.]

**gaudy** GAW•dee ADJECTIVE  
dressed or decorated with a lot of color but very little taste [Clowns tumbled around the ring in their *gaudy* costumes.]

**immune** im•YOON ADJECTIVE  
not affected by [Everyone got the flu except Flora, who seems to be *immune* to it.]

**knack** NAK NOUN  
a special ability that is hard to figure out or teach [Dion has a *knack* for guessing which songs will make it big.]

**negotiate** nih•GO•shee•ate VERB  
to arrange something through discussion and compromise [The principal will *negotiate* with the school board for more athletic equipment.]

**plight** PLITE NOUN  
an unfortunate, difficult, or dangerous situation [When the waves turned her boat over, May was in a terrible *plight*.]

**prominent** PROM•uh•nunt ADJECTIVE  
1. sticking out; standing out [My dad has a *prominent* forehead.]

2. noticeable; easy to see [The old hotel was the most *prominent* building on the block.]

3. important and well known [Judge Keith is a *prominent* member of the community.]

**ravenous** RAV•uh•nus ADJECTIVE  
very eager for food; very hungry [Kelly had skipped lunch so she was *ravenous* for dinner.]

**tactics** TAK•tix NOUN  
procedures used to get an advantage or be successful; methods [Our coach always comes up with *tactics* for us to use that help us win.]

**terse** TURS ADJECTIVE  
using the fewest words necessary to say something [When I asked my sister if she'd miss me, her *terse* reply was "Not much."]

**urgent** UR•junt ADJECTIVE  
in need of immediate attention or action [The accident victim had an *urgent* need for a doctor.]

**vessel** VES•ul NOUN  
1. a hollow container such as a cup or vase [The crystal glass was the perfect *vessel* for the deep red cranberry juice.]  
2. a ship or boat [My uncle knows every *vessel* that ever anchored in that harbor.]



A Terse Conversation

# 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 KWIHR•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.]