

Lesson 1

aggravate AG•ruh•vate VERB

1. to irritate or annoy [Don't *aggravate* me by interrupting.]
2. to make worse [Scratching your rash will only *aggravate* the condition.]

comprehend kom•pree•HEND VERB

to understand fully [Do you *comprehend* my instructions?]

cower KOW•ur VERB

to crouch and tremble; to shrink back in fear or because of pain [Whenever the cruel king was angry, all his servants would *cower*.]

endure en•DUR VERB

1. to last; to continue to exist [Did your house *endure* the earthquake?]
2. to put up with or bear; to show lasting strength [I don't think I can *endure* any more complaints.]

frugal FROO•gul ADJECTIVE

thrifty; not wasteful [My *frugal* parents often serve leftovers.]

futile FYOO•tul ADJECTIVE

useless, worthless, or hopeless; not effective [Our efforts to put out the fire were *futile*.]

immense ih•MENCE ADJECTIVE

huge; enormous [Blue whales are *immense* creatures.]

insufficient in•suh•FISH•unt ADJECTIVE

not as much as is needed [A light jacket is *insufficient* on a freezing day.]

laborious luh•BOR•ee•us ADJECTIVE

involving or requiring labor or much hard work; difficult [Plowing rocky soil is a *laborious* job.]

malice MAL•us NOUN

the desire to harm another; ill will [It is reasonable to fear someone who shows *malice* toward you.]

parasite PAIR•uh•site NOUN

1. a plant or animal that lives on (or within) another from which it gets food [A flea is a *parasite*.]
2. one who lives at another's expense without contributing anything of value [Uncle Ed is a *parasite* who expects Grandma to support him.]

predicament pree•DIK•uh•munt NOUN

a difficult or unpleasant situation [Our flat tire put us in a *predicament*.]

scoff SKOF VERB

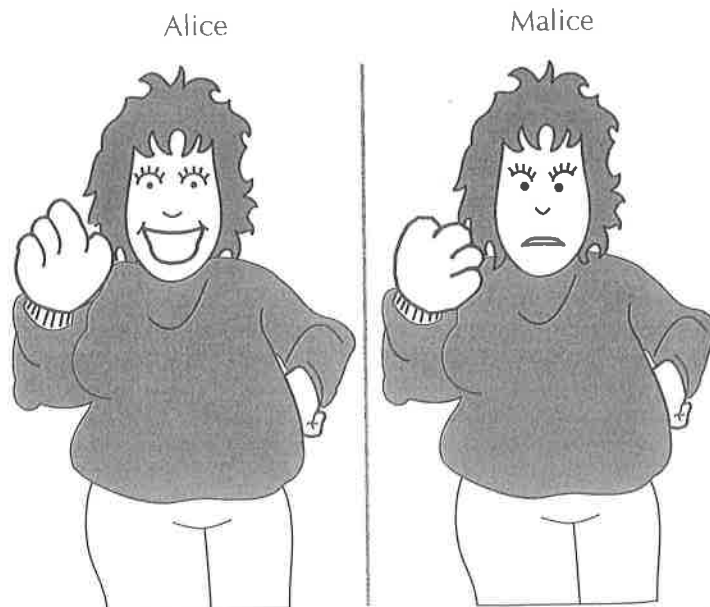
to show scorn; to look down on or make fun of someone or something [People used to *scoff* at early automobiles, but that attitude didn't last.]

trivial TRIV•ee•ul ADJECTIVE

not valuable or important [Let's not argue about *trivial* things.]

unanimous yoo•NAN•uh•mus ADJECTIVE

in (or based on) complete agreement [The group's decision was *unanimous*.]



Lesson 2

cliché klee•SHAY NOUN

a phrase that is no longer very effective or meaningful because of being used too often [“Busy as a bee” is a *cliché*.]

commend kuh•MEND VERB

to speak of with approval; to praise [I want to *commend* you for your bravery.]

competent KOM•puh•tent ADJECTIVE

able to do something [Greg is quite *competent* in the kitchen, so the dinner he made for us was delicious.]

deception dih•SEP•shun NOUN

a trick or lie; something that deceives [A scarecrow is a *deception* that makes crows think a person is in the field.]

drudgery DRUJ•ur•ee NOUN

dull, uninteresting work [Scrubbing floors is *drudgery*.]

erode ee•RODE VERB

to wear away slowly [Rains began to *erode* the river bank.]

falter FOL•tur VERB

1. to hesitate; to not go straight onward; to lose courage [The soldiers did not *falter* even though they faced almost certain death.]

2. to speak in a hesitating way; to stammer [If you don't know the answer, you may *falter* when you try to give it.]

hoard HORD

NOUN a stored supply, often hidden [The squirrel has a *hoard* of nuts.]

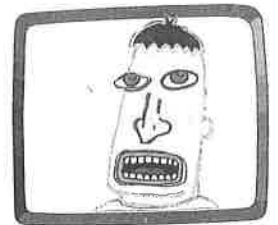
VERB to store up for future use; to collect, often in a greedy way [We began to *hoard* food supplies when we heard that a big snowstorm was coming.]

intimidate in•TIM•uh•date VERB

to frighten; to influence by fear [No bully is going to *intimidate* me!]



“This is Mary Sue Moss. Today we'll be talking to folks who have messages for Cinderella. What do you have to say, Mr. Stein?”



“Nnnn. Wicked old stepmother not intimidate Frankie.”

jubilant JOO•buh•lunt ADJECTIVE

feeling great joy; filled with gladness and rejoicing; happy enough to shout [We were all *jubilant* when Ronna scored the winning run.]

luscious LUSH•us ADJECTIVE

delicious; extremely sweet and pleasing to any of the senses [The fresh peaches made a *luscious* pie.]

offend uh•FEND VERB

to cause [someone] to feel hurt or angry; to insult [I don't want to *offend* you, but you do look silly in that hat.]

retrieve rih•TREEV VERB

to get back; to recover [I dropped a quarter in the snow but was able to *retrieve* it.]

steadfast STED•fast ADJECTIVE

1. firm and unchanging [Lincoln's *steadfast* belief was that the Union should be preserved.]

2. loyal; true [Helen and I have been *steadfast* friends for many years.]

tact TAKT NOUN

the ability to deal with difficult situations without making people feel hurt or insulted [It requires *tact* to tell a friend you're voting for someone else for class president.]

Lesson 3

abhor *ab•HOR* VERB

to hate; to shrink from with disgust [I used to *abhor* spinach, but now I like it.]

acute *uh•KYOOT* ADJECTIVE

1. sharp and severe [I felt an *acute* pain in my side.]
2. keen or sensitive [Hawks have *acute* vision.]
3. very serious [There is an *acute* shortage of water.]

bicker *BIK•ur* VERB

to argue over an unimportant matter [Let's not *bicker* about who's taller.]

etiquette *ET•uh•kit* NOUN

the manners and behavior considered to be acceptable [Dining *etiquette* is different at a picnic than at a formal dinner.]

foolhardy *FOOL•har•dee* ADJECTIVE

foolishly daring [Jumping off the roof was a *foolhardy* act.]

genial *JEEN•yul* ADJECTIVE

pleasantly cheerful and kindly [It's a pleasure to have such *genial* neighbors.]

imply *im•PLY* VERB

to suggest or express without directly saying [I yawned to *imply* that I was bored.]

initiative *ih•NISH•uh•tiv* NOUN

1. the ability to see what needs to be done and take a leading role in getting it done [Her *initiative* makes her a natural leader.]
2. a first step or movement; an act that begins something [I took the *initiative* by introducing myself to the new student.]

menace *MEN•us*

NOUN a serious threat [Wolves can be a *menace* to sheep.]

VERB to threaten [A mother bear will *menace* anyone who gets near her cubs.]

persevere *pur•suh•VEER* VERB

to keep at something even though it is difficult [Success comes to those who *persevere*.]

ponder *PON•dur* VERB

to consider carefully; to think deeply about, often over a period of time [I need to *ponder* this decision.]

quaint *KWAYNT* ADJECTIVE

strange, odd, or old-fashioned in a pleasing way [She had a *quaint* bed that folded up into the wall.]

remorse *rih•MORCE* NOUN

deep regret and a feeling of guilt over one's wrongdoing [The boy showed *remorse* when he realized he'd hurt my feelings.]

vague *VAYG* ADJECTIVE

1. not clear or definite [Not knowing whether I actually wanted to attend the party, I gave a *vague* answer.]
2. fuzzy or blurred [The house was a *vague* shape in the darkness.]

vital *VY•tul* ADJECTIVE

very important; absolutely necessary [Using seatbelts is *vital* for safety.]

A genial girl



Lesson 4

abrupt uh•BRUPT ADJECTIVE
happening suddenly or unexpectedly [The car came to an *abrupt* stop.]

acknowledge ak•NOL•ij VERB
1. to admit; to openly accept the truth of a fact [When you are wrong, it may be hard to *acknowledge* it.]
2. to recognize and answer [He sent a note to *acknowledge* my gift.]

adorn uh•DORN VERB
to add beauty to [Our neighbor likes to *adorn* her poodle with little pink bows.]

defiance dih•FY•unce NOUN
bold resistance; refusal to obey; an attitude or behavior that opposes someone or something powerful ["I won't, and you can't make me!" she said in *defiance*.]

dismal DIZ•mul ADJECTIVE
1. unpleasantly dim and gloomy [It was a *dismal*, rainy day.]
2. unhappy; cheerless [He responded to the bad news with a *dismal* sigh.]

folly FOL•ee NOUN
a lack of sense; foolishness; a foolish action or belief [It was *folly* for us to try to remove the beehive from the attic ourselves.]

illuminate ih•LOO•mih•nate VERB
to give light to [Turn on the lamp to *illuminate* the room.]

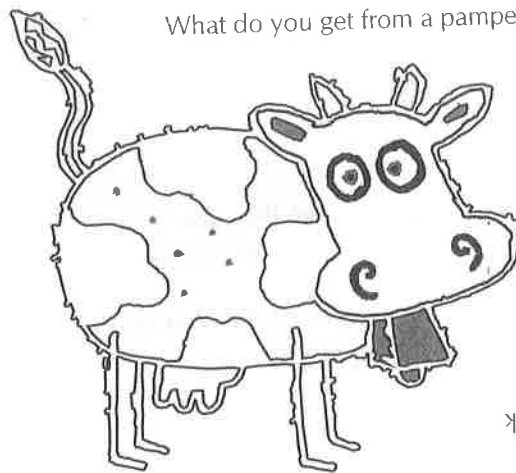
inevitable in•EV•uh•tuh•bul ADJECTIVE
certain to happen; unavoidable [When my brakes failed, I knew some sort of collision was *inevitable*.]

mere MEER ADJECTIVE
nothing more or other than; only [This wonderful toy cost a *mere* dollar.]

pamper PAM•pur VERB
to treat with too much gentleness; to give special care, privilege, and protection [His parents *pamper* him, so he's never learned to do anything on his own.]

Question:

What do you get from a pampered cow?



Spilled milk
Answer:

perplex pur•PLEX VERB
to puzzle; to cause uncertainty and confusion [A mystery story may *perplex* a reader until the end.]

reverence REV•ur•unce NOUN
a feeling or attitude of deep respect [Our national anthem expresses a feeling of *reverence* for the flag.]

trounce TROWNCE VERB
to thoroughly beat or defeat [Our better players will *trounce* the other team.]

unique yoo•NEEK ADJECTIVE
1. so unusual as to have no like or equal [The design of each snowflake is *unique*.]
2. highly unusual or extremely rare [Tony's musical ability is *unique* in one so young.]

valor VAL•ur NOUN
great courage or bravery [The soldier received a medal for *valor*.]

Lesson 5

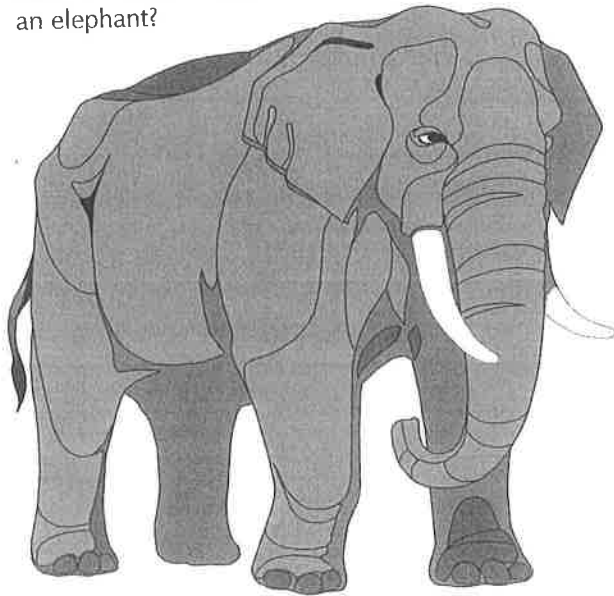
abode uh•BODE NOUN
the place where one lives [Ben's *abode* is a cabin by a lake.]

agitate AJ•uh•tate VERB
to excite or disturb [She didn't want to *agitate* her grandmother with bad news.]

ample AM•pul ADJECTIVE
enough or more than enough [We packed *ample* clothing for the trip.]

belittle bih•LIT•tul VERB
to make someone or something seem small or unimportant [Joan tried to *belittle* the house by calling it a shack.]

Question:
How could you belittle an elephant?



Answer: You couldn't. An elephant is just too big to be little!

clamor KLAM•ur
NOUN a loud and continuing noise [The parade's *clamor* could be heard blocks away.]
VERB to cry out loudly; to make a loud and continuing noise [The crowd began to *clamor* for the candidate to make an appearance.]

compassion kum•PASH•un NOUN
a feeling of sorrow or pity for another [They showed their *compassion* for the homeless.]

fugitive FYOO•juh•tiv NOUN
a person who is running away, usually one trying to escape capture by the law [The detectives followed the trail of the *fugitive*.]

linger LING•gur VERB
to continue to stay, usually because of being unwilling to leave [It's nice to *linger* by the fire on a cold night.]

listless LIST•lus ADJECTIVE
showing no interest in what is going on; having no desire to do anything active [She sighed in a *listless* way and went to bed.]

melancholy MEL•un•kol•ee ADJECTIVE
sad or gloomy [Joe sang a *melancholy* tune.]

perceive pur•SEEV VERB
to see, hear, taste, smell, or feel; to be aware of [Do you *perceive* the odor of something burning?]

perish PAIR•ish VERB
to be destroyed, ruined, or wiped out; to die [If it doesn't rain soon, the crop will *perish*.]

relish REL•ish
NOUN enjoyment; anything that adds pleasure or interest [He ate with great *relish*.]
VERB to like very much; to enjoy greatly [I always *relish* a good science fiction story.]

reminisce rem•uh•NIS VERB
to think, talk, or write about one's experiences in the past [My grandparents used the visit to *reminisce* about the old days.]

timidity tih•MID•uh•tee NOUN
a lack of courage or confidence; shyness [Her *timidity* in a crowd was plain to see.]

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.]

Lesson 7

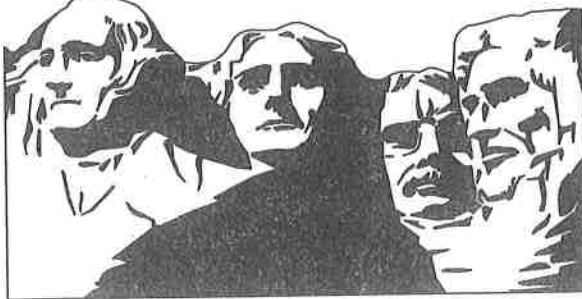
appropriate uh•PRO•pree•ut ADJECTIVE
suitable, proper [A bathing suit is *appropriate* clothing for the beach but not for school.]

contradict kon•truh•DIKT VERB
1. to say that a statement is not true or to say that the opposite is true [When Jane said I started the fight, I had to *contradict* her.]
2. to go against or disagree with [Measurements *contradict* your claim that you are taller.]

fraud FRAWD NOUN
1. cheating; dishonest dealing; a trick that is meant to deceive [When my "gold" ring turned green, I knew I was a victim of *fraud*.]
2. a person who is not what he or she pretends to be, or something that is not what it seems to be [That man isn't a real doctor; he's a *fraud*.]

heritage HAIR•uh•tij NOUN
something that is passed on from one's ancestors or handed down from the past, either property (money or goods) or something that is not property, such as a way of life or a set of skills [Freedom is part of the *heritage* of all Americans.]

Places such as Mount Rushmore are part of our national heritage.



hostile HOS•tul ADJECTIVE
1. referring to an enemy [*Hostile* soldiers captured the fort.]
2. unfriendly; showing hate or dislike [The bully gave him a *hostile* look.]

intelligible in•TEL•uh•juh•bul ADJECTIVE
understandable; clear [When you give directions, make sure they are *intelligible*.]

intervene in•tur•VEEN VERB
1. to happen or come between [Two weeks will *intervene* between matches.]
2. to come in or between in order to change, stop, or settle [I won't *intervene* in the quarrel.]

invalid IN•vuh•lid
NOUN a sick, weak person who cannot get around, especially one who has been in poor health for a long time [Grandpa has been an *invalid* since he broke his hip.]
ADJECTIVE not well; weak and sick [They have an *invalid* child at home.]

jostle JOS•ul VERB
to push aside or crowd against [Trying to get into the stadium, the eager fans began to *jostle* one another.]

majestic muh•JES•tik ADJECTIVE
dignified; noble; grand [The wealthy family lived in a *majestic* home in the country.]

obliging uh•BLY•jing ADJECTIVE
ready to do favors; helpful; friendly [Our *obliging* neighbors helped when Mom was sick.]

parch PARCH VERB
to make or become hot and dry or thirsty [This sunny, dry weather will *parch* the crops.]

potential puh•TEN•shul
ADJECTIVE possible but not yet actual; capable of becoming real [Let's think of all the *potential* problems involved in moving.]
NOUN skill or power that may be developed [She has the *potential* to become a champion.]

scurry SKUR•ee VERB
to run quickly; to hurry [I'll *scurry* down to the store and be right back.]

shiftless SHIFT•lus ADJECTIVE
lazy; careless; good-for-nothing [The *shiftless* man wouldn't even look for a job.]

Lesson 8

biodegradable *by•oh•dih•GRAY•duh•bul*
ADJECTIVE readily broken down or rotted,
especially by the action of bacteria [Paper is
biodegradable, but most plastic is not.]

clarity *KLAIR•uh•tee* NOUN
1. clearness in quality or appearance [The
clarity of glass is improved when it is cleaned.]
2. clearness in expression or understanding
[The rule was stated with *clarity*.]

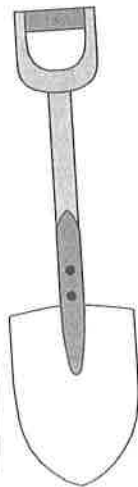
confine *kun•FINE* VERB
1. to keep or hold within limits; to restrict
[*Confine* your purchases to things on the list.]
2. to keep physically restricted; to shut up
[We built a fence to *confine* our dog to the yard.]

ecstasy *EK•stuh•see* NOUN
very great happiness [Winning the contest
filled me with *ecstasy*.]

exhale *EX•hale* VERB
1. to breathe out [When you *exhale* on a cold
day, you can see your breath.]
2. to give off, as air, smoke, gas, etc.
[Boiling pots of water *exhale* steam.]

grave *GRAVE* ADJECTIVE
1. important; worthy of being deeply
considered [The city council dealt
with many *grave* issues, such as the
need for stop lights.]
2. dangerous; threatening [His illness
is *grave*, and I'm very worried.]
3. serious; thoughtful [The judge
spoke to the jury in a *grave* tone.]

A cemetery worker who never
smiles is a grave digger.



inflammation *in•fluh•MAY•shun* NOUN
a hot, red, sore swelling of part of the body
[He was troubled by *inflammation* in his knees.]

lurk *LURK* VERB
to stay hidden, usually ready to attack or spring
out suddenly [At night, many children imagine
that monsters *lurk* in their bedroom closet.]

monotonous *muh•NOT•uh•nus* ADJECTIVE
having little or no change; boring because of
sameness [After a few days, summer vacation
became *monotonous*.]

primitive *PRIM•uh•tuv* ADJECTIVE
1. of or belonging to earliest times [We are
studying *primitive* humans and how they lived.]
2. very simple; like that of earliest times
[Clinics in poor nations may be able to provide
only *primitive* treatment.]

reel *REEL* VERB
1. to walk or move unsteadily; to stagger or
sway, as from dizziness [Twirling around can
make you *reel*.]
2. to spin around and around; to whirl
[When you are dizzy, the room seems to *reel*.]

remnant *REM•nunt* NOUN
that which remains or is left over [Mom made
pot holders from a *remnant* of cloth.]

surpass *sur•PAS* VERB
to do better; be greater than; or go beyond
[This season's crop of apples should easily
surpass last year's.]

trial *TRY•ul*
NOUN 1. the act of trying or testing [Despite
a few problems, the new plane did extremely
well in its first *trial*.]
NOUN 2. something that causes hardship
or suffering [The illness was a great *trial*.]
ADJECTIVE of or for a trial or test [I received
a *trial* sample.]

unruly *un•ROO•lee* ADJECTIVE
hard to control; disobedient [I dislike
babysitting for *unruly* children.]

Lesson 9

bilingual *by•LING•gwul* ADJECTIVE

having or using two languages [Luca, who spends every summer in Italy with his grandparents, has grown up *bilingual*.]

dreary *DREER•ee* ADJECTIVE

gloomy, sad, or dull [My aunt's stories about her difficult childhood are always long and *dreary*.]

glint *GLINT*

NOUN a beam, glow, or flash [I saw a *glint* of light in the distance.]

VERB to beam, glow, or flash [Look at the sunlight *glint* through the trees.]

glutton *GLUT•un* NOUN

a person who overeats; a greedy eater [Don't be such a *glutton*; leave some for us!]

incomprehensible *in•kom•prih•HEN•suh•bul*

ADJECTIVE not understandable [How anyone can be cruel to a child is *incomprehensible*.]

infancy *IN•fun•see* NOUN

1. babyhood [*Infancy* is a time of great growth.]
2. early period of existence or development [In the 1780s, America was in its *infancy*.]

instinct *IN•stingkt* NOUN

1. a natural knowledge, feeling, or way of acting that is not learned but, instead, is present from birth; a natural, inner force [Most dogs have an *instinct* to defend their homes.]
2. a natural ability, talent, or tendency [Mara has an *instinct* for knowing what colors will look good together.]

knowledgeable *NOL•ij•uh•bul* ADJECTIVE

having knowledge; intelligent [My dad has traveled a great deal and is *knowledgeable* about other countries.]

manipulate *muh•NIP•yoo•late* VERB

1. to work with the hands or with a machine, especially with skill [Potters *manipulate* clay.]
2. to manage or control cleverly, often by cheating or being tricky [He used lies to *manipulate* us into doing what he wanted.]

mimic *MIM•uk*

VERB 1. to copy or imitate very closely [The dancers *mimic* the instructor's steps.]

VERB 2. to make fun of by imitating [It always upset me when other children would *mimic* the odd way I walked.]

NOUN one who mimics [A monkey is a good *mimic*, which is why people say, "Monkey see, monkey do."]

mystify *MIS•tuh•fy* VERB

to bewilder or puzzle [This story will *mystify* you until the end.]

quake *KWAKE*

VERB to shake or tremble [The odd noises in the dark house made me *quake*.]

NOUN a short form of earthquake [The *quake* damaged many buildings.]

shun *SHUN* VERB

to avoid completely; to keep away from [I would advise you to *shun* anyone who behaves like a bully.]

summon *SUM•un* VERB

1. to call or send for; to call together [*Summon* everyone for a meeting.]
2. to gather; to stir to activity [You need to *summon* your courage.]

zeal *ZEEL* NOUN

a strong, eager desire or effort; great enthusiasm [My partner and I began our project with *zeal*.]

3 Smelly Questions

1. How are a skunk and a bad mimic alike?

2. What is a skunk when it's in its infancy?

3. How does a lost skunk find its way home?

Lesson 10

anonymous uh•NON•uh•mus ADJECTIVE

1. with no name known; unknown [Many of our best-known nursery rhymes are by *anonymous* poets.]
2. given or written by someone whose name is not provided [The message was *anonymous*, and I never found out who sent it.]

anxiety ang•ZY•uh•tee NOUN

a feeling of worry; uneasy concern or fear
[I had some *anxiety* about going to a new school, but it didn't last long.]

beneficial ben•uh•FISH•ul ADJECTIVE

helpful; providing a benefit [Drinking milk is quite *beneficial* for bones.]

bounteous BOWN•tee•us ADJECTIVE

1. given freely; generous [Some rich people give *bounteous* help to the poor.]
2. plentiful; more than enough [We prepared *bounteous* food for the picnic.]

dishearten dis•HAR•tun VERB

to cause to lose spirit or hope; to discourage
[Don't let one failure *dishearten* you.]

enthusiast en•THOO•zee•ust NOUN

a person with a strong liking for or interest in something; a devoted supporter
[Mariana is an in-line *enthusiast* who skates every single day.]

Joe says *everyone* skates and Mariana ought to show more individuality. Joe himself can't go one single block without falling forty times.



individuality

in•duh•vij•oo•AL•uh•tee NOUN
qualities that make one person or thing different from others [People often use clothing to express their *individuality*.]

leeway LEE•way NOUN

1. more money, time, etc., than is known to be needed [The price of admission was five dollars, but I took six to give myself a little *leeway*.]
2. room for freedom of action [I have to dress neatly for school, but I have a lot of *leeway* in choosing exactly what to wear.]

liberate LIH•bur•ate VERB

to set free [One of the North's goals in the Civil War was to *liberate* the slaves.]

receptacle ree•SEP•tuh•kul NOUN

something that receives and contains something else [Hand me that bucket or some other *receptacle* to hold these peaches.]

relic REL•ik NOUN

a thing or part that remains from the past
[That beautiful old sword is a *relic* from the Revolutionary War.]

replenish ree•PLEN•ish VERB

to fill or supply again [We have to stop to *replenish* our gas supply before we get back on the highway.]

scrawny SKRAW•nee ADJECTIVE

unusually thin; bony [When we found the cub, he was *scrawny* from lack of food.]

taunt TAWNT

NOUN an insulting remark; a gesture or statement that makes fun of someone or something ["I don't want to hear one single *taunt* directed at the other team," said our coach at the pep rally.]

VERB to make fun of in an insulting way ["But what if they *taunt* us?" Joe asked.]

unattainable un•uh•TANE•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

unable to be reached or achieved [With our best player out of the competition, victory seemed *unattainable*.]