

Lesson 21

aimless AIM•lis ADJECTIVE

without purpose or direction [We passed the time with *aimless* conversation, just chatting about this and that.]

assailant uh•SAY•lunt NOUN

a person who attacks [Ralph was knocked off his bike by an *assailant*.]

barter BAR•tur

VERB to trade by exchanging goods or services without using money [Jerry used his old mitt to *barter* for his friend's hockey stick.]

NOUN the act of bartering; the things that are traded this way [Before money existed, people got what they needed through *barter*.]

coincide koh•in•SIDE VERB

1. to occur at the same time [Our birthdays *coincide*, so we often combine our parties.]
2. to agree exactly; to be just alike [Lily's goals and her parents' hopes for her *coincide*.]

drab DRAB ADJECTIVE

not bright or lively; dull and cheerless [The shed was painted a *drab* gray.]

elusive ee•LOO•suv ADJECTIVE

hard to capture [We tried for two weeks to catch that *elusive* cat.]

frigid FRIJ•id ADJECTIVE

1. extremely cold; without heat [Our furnace broke, and the entire house is *frigid*.]
2. lacking warmth of feeling; stiff and formal [Mary's *frigid* greeting revealed her anger.]

TEACHER: Use the word *frigid* in a sentence.

STUDENT 1: If our frigid work right, our food'd stay good and cold. (And if the furnace'd work right, my family'd stay good and warm.)

grotesque groh•TESK ADJECTIVE

very odd, abnormal, strange, or ugly in shape or appearance [After the car accident, my battered and bruised face looked *grotesque*.]

impudence IM•pyuh•dunce NOUN

rude disrespect; unashamed boldness [The umpire was shocked by the player's *impudence*.]

mimicry MIM•ik•ree NOUN

the act of copying or imitating; imitation [A parrot's ability at *mimicry* is amazing.]

mute MYOOT

ADJECTIVE 1. unable or unwilling to speak [I was *mute* with embarrassment.]

ADJECTIVE 2. not spoken [Peter's frightened eyes were a *mute* call for help.]

VERB to muffle or soften the sound of [That scarf around your face *mutes* your voice.]

ominous OM•uh•nus ADJECTIVE

threatening harm or evil [We heard the *ominous* roar of a tornado.]

TEACHER: Use the word *ominous* in a sentence.

STUDENT 2: Ominous see a scary movie this weekend.



prejudice PREJ•uh•dus NOUN

1. an opinion formed before the facts are known or in spite of the facts; an opinion formed without taking time to judge fairly [My aunt has a *prejudice* against rock music, but I think she'd like some of it if she'd just listen.]
2. hatred or suspicion of other races, religions, and so on [Babies are not born with *prejudice*; it has to be taught to them.]

rectify REK•tuh•fy VERB

to make right; to correct [Tina lost my sweater and tried to *rectify* the situation by buying me another one.]

veneer vuh•NEER NOUN

1. a thin layer of high-quality wood or other material used to cover a surface [The table was cheap pine with an oak *veneer*.]
2. an outward appearance that is attractive but misleading [Len covered up his mean nature with a *veneer* of friendliness.]

Exercise A: Put It Briefly

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence.

1. The look on Mom's face was the scary one that always means I'm really in trouble and there's no escape and something bad is about to happen. *Briefly*, the look on her face was
2. I chased my parakeet through the house, but every time I got near, it darted off or flew higher than I could reach, and I simply couldn't get it back in its cage. *Briefly*, that bird was
3. Women used to be kept out of medical school because they were women, and many people wrongly thought they couldn't be good doctors. *Briefly*, the problem was caused by
4. The monster in the movie had an ugly head, a thick, twisted body, bulging eyes, and green, slimy skin that was totally disgusting. *Briefly*, it was
5. I like movies, concerts, swimming, fishing, and camping, and Josie likes moves, concerts, swimming, fishing, and camping. *Briefly*, our interests
6. The walls were white; the rug was tan; the furniture was brown; and there were no pictures, flowers, or anything at all interesting. *Briefly*, the room was

Exercise B: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question. This exercise continues on the next page.

7. What is a copycat involved in?
8. What would a guard dog protect you from?
9. What describes a reflection in a curved mirror?
10. What kind of weather does Alaska have in January?
11. What kind of agreement involves nodding your head?
12. What kind of behavior is shown by children who talk back?
13. What goes on when someone trades a cow for three sheep?
14. What does the player who's running with the football try to be?
15. What could cover a plywood counter top to make it look nicer?
16. What causes people to dislike other people they don't even know?

17. What describes the sound of cracking ice if you are walking on a frozen pond?
18. What do a party and a play do when both of them are scheduled for eight o'clock Saturday night?

Exercise C: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement.

19. If a memory is **elusive**, does it come right to your mind? YES NO
20. Is a rainbow an **ominous** sight? YES NO
21. Does sunrise **coincide** with sunset? YES NO
22. Is **impudence** a sign of bad manners? YES NO
23. Does carpet **mute** the sound of footsteps? ... YES NO

Exercise D: What Is It?

Write the **Word** that each rhymed clue describes.

24. This describes your walk when you decide to take a stroll
Without a place in mind to go or any kind of goal.
25. If I have extra sandwiches and offer one to you
In trade for a banana, this is what I want to do.
26. If music playing loudly interferes with conversation,
Then turning down the sound should do this to the situation.
27. What a monkey sees, a monkey often tries to do.
They're really very good at this, and chimpanzees are, too.
28. The cabinet looks lovely. Well, the outside does, although
Scratches that go through this will reveal what lies below.

TEACHER: Use the word *coincide* in a sentence.

STUDENT 3: When it rains, I coincide to stay dry.



Exercise E: Antonyms

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

29. victim; target; prey
30. hot; boiling; steamy
31. talkative; noisy; loud
32. damage; harm; worsen
33. cheerful; colorful; brilliant
34. courtesy; politeness; respect
35. deliberate; planned; practical

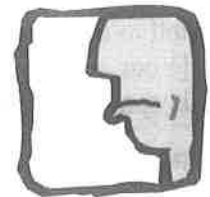
Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. The _____ of the teenager's behavior made the dignified old lady respond with "How dare you!"
37. I stared in _____ amazement at Dad's green plaid pants, so he said, "Well, tell me what you think!"
38. The calf was too _____ to rope; it dodged the lasso every time I threw it.
39. My calm appearance was a _____; it just hid how nervous I was inside.
40. The dark clouds were a clearly _____ sign that a violent storm was coming.
41. Bert quit rowing and let the boat drift in a slow, _____ fashion across the lake.
42. I think my coach has a _____ against short players; she rarely lets me play even though I dribble and shoot well.
43. The unpainted houses with their dusty yards looked _____ and depressing.
44. Greek myths contain _____ creatures, such as Scylla, who has six heads, and the Minotaur, which is half-human and half-bull.
45. After breaking a neighbor's window, Melvin tried to _____ the situation by offering to pay for a new one.
46. The baseball season and soccer season _____, so Chris has to choose which sport to play.
47. I told the police officer the _____ had punched me and then run down an alley.
48. Some comedians use _____ to make fun of how other people talk and behave.
49. Columbus used _____ to obtain gold from natives of the islands where he landed.
50. Andy's _____ tone of voice when he said "Just go away" made me realize he didn't want to be friends anymore.

TEACHER: Use the word *rectify* in a sentence.

STUDENT 4: Dad says my bike will get rectify keep leaving it out in the driveway.



STUDENT 5: Teacher, why are you mute all of a sudden?

Quick LIST

aimless ADJ.
assailant N.
barter V., N.

coincide V.
drab ADJ.
elusive ADJ.

frigid ADJ.
grotesque ADJ.
impudence N.

mimicry N.
mute ADJ., V.
ominous ADJ.

prejudice N.
rectify V.
veneer N.