

## Lesson 25

### **aloof** uh•LOOF

ADJECTIVE not emotionally involved; not interested; emotionally distant [The prince's *aloof* attitude toward his subjects did not make him popular.]

ADVERB at a distance; not involved; apart [Kyle watched the parade from his window, *aloof* from the crowd on the street.]

### **deceased** di•SEEST

NOUN dead person or persons [On Memorial Day, we honor the *deceased* who gave their lives in American wars.]

ADJECTIVE dead [My aunt, who is now *deceased*, used to tell wonderful stories.]

### **derisive** di•RY•siv ADJECTIVE

scornful; mocking [My clumsy dive was met by *derisive* laughter.]

### **intensive** in•TEN•siv ADJECTIVE

showing or requiring great effort, force, or attention; thorough [*Intensive* research has led to new treatments for some kinds of cancer.]

### **murky** MURK•ee ADJECTIVE

dark, gloomy, or hard to see through [*Murky* waters kept divers from finding the sunken fishing boat.]

### **nimble** NIM•bul ADJECTIVE

moving lightly and quickly [Mountain goats are *nimble* climbers on rocky slopes.]

### **phenomenal** fuh•NOM•uh•nul ADJECTIVE

very unusual; extraordinary [The new toy's rapid sales made it a *phenomenal* success.]

### **pivot** PIV•ut

NOUN 1. the pin or shaft on which a thing turns [An axle for a wheel is a kind of *pivot*.]

NOUN 2. a turning movement [With a quick *pivot*, she faced me.]

VERB to turn on, or as if on, a pivot [Watch that gymnast *pivot* around the bar.]

### **repel** ri•PEL VERB

1. to drive back or away; to resist or refuse [This material will *repel* heat and moisture.]

2. to cause dislike or disgust [Cruelty to animals *repels* me.]

### **secretive** SEE•kruh•tiv ADJECTIVE

keeping one's thoughts, feelings, or actions from others [Ann's *secretive* smile made us wonder what she was thinking about.]

### **squabble** SKWAH•bul

NOUN a noisy quarrel about something unimportant [It was a dumb *squabble* over the difference between two shades of blue.]

VERB to take part in a squabble [Gus and I *squabble* all the time; it's no big deal.]

### **superficial** soo•pur•FISH•ul ADJECTIVE

1. not deep; on the surface [Even a *superficial* scalp injury can cause heavy bleeding.]

2. not thorough; incomplete; concerned with or understanding only what is on the surface or most obvious [A *superficial* reading may not reveal a poem's true meaning.]

### **unearth** un•EARTH VERB

1. to dig up from out of the earth [Experts were brought in to *unearth* the ancient bones.]

2. to find out by searching or studying; to discover [Police failed to *unearth* any new evidence.]

Even after Dracula has slept in the ground all day, he's neat and clean when he *unearths* himself. How *unearth* does he do that?

### **veranda** vuh•RAN•duh NOUN

an open, roofed porch along one or more sides of a building [The old hotel's *veranda* had white pillars.]

### **wearisome** WEER•ee•sum ADJECTIVE

causing weariness or boredom; tiring or tiresome [It was a *wearisome* trip, and I could hardly wait to get back home.]



"See?  
Nothing  
up my  
cape!"

## Lesson 26

**adhere** ad•HERE VERB

1. to stick or hold fast; to stay attached [Lick the stamp so it will *adhere* to the envelope.]
2. to stay firm in supporting or approving [Everyone must *adhere* to the school's rules.]

**clammy** KLAM•ee ADJECTIVE

unpleasantly cold and damp [The walls of the cave felt *clammy*.]

**disintegrate** dis•IN•ti•grate VERB

to reduce to tiny bits or pieces; to break up [A paper towel will *disintegrate* if you try to scrub something with it.]

**escapade** ESS•kuh•pade NOUN

action or behavior that breaks the rules; a wild or mischievous adventure [Our *escapade* involved replacing the flag with a pair of the janitor's overalls.]

**grimace** GRIM•us

NOUN a twisting of the face in pain, disgust, or displeasure [When I asked Charlie how he felt, he responded with a *grimace*.]

VERB to twist the face in pain, disgust, or displeasure ["Don't *grimace* like that when I tell you to clean your room," said my mom.]

**idolize** EYE•duh•lize VERB

to worship; to love or admire very much or too much; to adore [For reasons I don't see, some of my friends *idolize* the band "Wet Dog."]

**incessant** in•SESS•unt ADJECTIVE

continuing or being repeated without stopping; endless or seemingly endless [Pam's *incessant* complaining was extremely annoying.]

**influential** in•floo•EN•shul ADJECTIVE

having or using great influence; powerful; effective [The mayor is *influential* in getting new businesses to move to our city.]

**lunge** LUNJ

NOUN a sudden forward movement [The cat made a *lunge* for the bird.]

VERB to move suddenly forward [When the bell rings, the students *lunge* for the door.]

**mandatory** MAN•duh•tor•ee ADJECTIVE

required or commanded by an authority; demanded; necessary [Attending practice is *mandatory* for all team members.]

**nonexistent** non•eg•ZISS•tunt ADJECTIVE

not existing; not real [I was so nervous that I imagined *nonexistent* dangers.]

**overstate** oh•vur•STATE VERB

to state too strongly; to exaggerate [Bernie *overstates* his abilities when he says he's a genius at math.]

**portray** por•TRAY VERB

1. to make a picture of [Make a sketch that *portrays* your invention.]
2. to picture in words; to describe [This book *portrays* life on the frontier.]
3. to play the part of, as in a play or movie [Limping will help you *portray* an injured man.]

**spite** SPITE

NOUN a mean or evil feeling toward another; a desire to harm or annoy [Ed deliberately broke my radio out of *spite*.]

VERB to hurt, embarrass, or annoy [Carol must have said that just to *spite* me.]

**zest** ZEST NOUN

1. something that gives or adds flavor, enjoyment, or excitement [Uncle Jim's sense of humor added *zest* to the conversation.]
2. keen enjoyment or excitement [Mrs. Ray may be old, but she still has a real *zest* for life.]

### FIVE THINGS THAT ADHERE REALLY WELL

**#1 POSTAGE STAMPS** Nowadays, you can pull a self-adhesive stamp off its shiny backing, press it to an envelope, and it adheres like magic. No nasty glue taste. No nasty-glue-taste grimace. (The price is another matter!)



## Lesson 27

**accessible** ak•SESS•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

able to be approached, entered, or used;  
available [That camping area is *accessible* only  
by foot.]

**desperation** dess•puh•RAY•shun NOUN

the condition of being desperate; recklessness  
resulting from despair [*Desperation* drove the  
man to try to swim across the swollen river.]

**emerge** ee•MURJ VERB

1. to come out [The sun was beginning to  
*emerge* from behind the clouds.]

2. to become known [The truth about the  
situation will *emerge* as time goes on.]

**felony** FEL•uh•nee NOUN

a major crime, such as murder or kidnapping  
[Many kinds of theft are considered *felonies*,  
even if there is no violence involved.]

**heirloom** AIR•loom NOUN

a treasured possession handed down from  
generation to generation [The silver tea set is  
an *heirloom* that came originally from France.]

**humble** HUM•bul

ADJECTIVE 1. not proud or conceited [I was  
impressed by the woman's *humble* words after  
she won the award.]

ADJECTIVE 2. low in importance or condition;  
plain or simple [I shared their *humble* meal of  
soup and bread.]

VERB 1. to make less proud [Not even six  
straight losses could *humble* the boastful coach.]

VERB 2. to lower in importance, rank, or  
position [The king knelt to *humble* himself at  
the feet of the man who had saved his life.]

**incriminate** in•KRIM•uh•nate VERB

to accuse of a crime or fault or to make appear  
guilty [The stolen goods that were found in  
Clyde's locker *incriminate* him.]

**ornate** or•NATE ADJECTIVE

having much decoration; very showy [The  
antique table was carved with *ornate* designs.]

**precede** pri•SEED VERB

to be, come, or go ahead in time, place, order,  
or importance [A flower girl will *precede* the  
bride down the aisle.]

**prudent** PROO•dunt ADJECTIVE

careful and wise about the future; having good  
judgment [It would be *prudent* to save part of  
your allowance.]

**pugnacious** pug•NAY•shus ADJECTIVE

eager or willing to start a fight; quarrelsome  
[Bill is very *pugnacious* today, so watch out.]

**sieve** SIV NOUN

a utensil having many small openings, used to  
strain, sift, or drain [Put the boiled potatoes in a  
*sieve* to drain off the water.]

**stifle** STY•ful VERB

1. to stop or hold back [I tried to *stifle* my  
laughter during Chet's speech.]

2. to be unable to breathe freely or to cause  
this feeling [Doesn't it *stifle* Jake to sleep with  
the blanket over his head?]

**stimulate** STIM•yuh•late VERB

to give energy to; to spur into action; to excite  
or stir up [Cheerleaders are supposed to  
*stimulate* the crowd's enthusiasm.]

**thrive** THRIVE VERB

to be successful; to do well  
[The bakery began to *thrive*  
when word got out about  
its tasty products.]



### A Writer's Term

A writer was charged with a felony and put on trial. Conceited and pugnacious, he repeatedly and loudly proclaimed his innocence. The jury, however, felt that the evidence incriminated him and found him guilty. Before deciding on a punishment, the judge asked the writer if he felt sorry for his crime.

"Well, I . . ." the man began, but then no other words emerged; they were stifled by his pride. After a pause, the judge ordered a long prison term.

(continued)

## Lesson 28

**accommodating** uh•KOM•uh•day•ting  
ADJECTIVE willing to please; ready to help  
[It's tempting to take advantage of Pat's *accommodating* nature.]

**accusatory** uh•KYOO•zuh•tor•ee ADJECTIVE  
accusing of wrongdoing; stating or hinting at blame [When he couldn't find his wallet, Chet questioned me in an *accusatory* way.]

**braggart** BRAG•urt NOUN  
one who brags a great deal; a boaster [I'm the world's biggest *braggart* when I get an A.]

**brandish** BRAN•dish VERB  
to wave or shake something, such as a weapon, in order to frighten or threaten someone [Being thrown out of the game may teach Bill not to *brandish* a bat at the umpire.]

**hereditary** huh•RED•uh•tair•ee ADJECTIVE  
passed on from parent to child or from an animal or plant to its offspring; coming from one's ancestors  
[Hair color and eye color are *hereditary*.]

In many families, hair color is both hereditary and heREDitary!



**intact** in•TAKT ADJECTIVE  
with nothing damaged or missing; complete and unhurt [The tornado set the doghouse down *intact*—in the middle of the street!]

**mastermind** MASS•tur•mind  
NOUN a very clever or intelligent person, especially one who is able to plan or direct a group project or action [Police believe the *mastermind* of the robbery was a bank teller.]  
VERB to be the mastermind of a project or action [“Joe,” Meg teased, “you must *have* a mind before you can *mastermind* anything.”]

**preoccupied** pree•OCK•yuh•pide ADJECTIVE  
totally absorbed in thought; having one's attention held so that other matters are ignored [Mrs. Case was so *preoccupied* with family problems that her health suffered.]

**quaver** KWAY•vur  
NOUN a shaking or trembling, especially of the voice [Only a slight *quaver* in the man's voice hinted at his worry.]  
VERB to shake or tremble [The king's anger made his servants *quaver*.]

**reciprocate** ree•SIP•roh•kate VERB  
to give, feel, or do in return [Ling had done so much for me that I wanted to *reciprocate*.]

**rigorous** RIG•ur•us ADJECTIVE  
1. very strict; not flexible; harsh or severe [Our *rigorous* practice was exhausting.]  
2. thorough, accurate, or exact [Scientists have made a *rigorous* study of the virus.]

**sabotage** SAB•uh•tozh  
NOUN a deliberate attempt to damage or destroy property or to interfere with some activity or effort [An FBI agent said that the explosion was likely an act of *sabotage*.]  
VERB to perform an act of sabotage [A traitor might try to *sabotage* his or her nation's efforts to fight a war.]

**serviceable** SUR•viss•uh•bul ADJECTIVE  
able to give useful service; useful; lasting well in long or hard use [A good refrigerator should be *serviceable* for many years.]

**smidgen** SMIJ•un NOUN  
a very small amount; a bit [I'd like just a *smidgen* of cheese on this cracker.]

**swoon** SWOON  
VERB to faint; to feel faint because of strong emotion, especially joy [A smile from Elvis Presley could make his fans *swoon*.]  
NOUN a fainting spell [Dad nearly fell into a *swoon* when he saw the price tag.]



## Lesson 29

**alleviate** uh•LEE•vee•ate VERB

to make easier to bear; to relieve, reduce, or decrease [Soaking in a hot bath will *alleviate* the pain of sore muscles.]

**antisocial** an•ti•SOH•shul ADJECTIVE

1. not caring to be with people; avoiding contact with others; unfriendly [My *antisocial* uncle doesn't even attend family gatherings.]
2. against the basic principles of society; harmful to people generally [Disobeying the law is an *antisocial* act.]

**consume** kun•SOOM VERB

1. to use up or spend [Cars *consume* gas.]
2. to eat or drink up [Sharks *consume* so much that they are known as "eating machines."]
3. to destroy, as by fire [If the fire isn't controlled, it will *consume* the whole block.]

**customary** KUSS•tuh•mair•ee ADJECTIVE

following or based on custom; usual [It is *customary* to give gifts on a person's birthday.]

**MAN IN RESTAURANT:** Is it customary here to tip the waiter?

**WAITER:** Yes, it is.

**MAN:** Good, then tip me! I've been waiting an hour for my meal!

**dislodge** dis•LOJ VERB

to move or force from a place or position [I tried to *dislodge* the rock but couldn't budge it.]

**exasperate** eg•ZASS•puh•rate VERB

to irritate or annoy greatly; to anger [A child's refusal to obey can *exasperate* a parent.]

**factual** FAK•choo•ul ADJECTIVE

having to do with or containing facts; real; actual [A *factual* report of an event should not include one's personal opinions.]

**hectic** HEK•tik ADJECTIVE

full of frantic activity and excitement or confusion [We spent a *hectic* afternoon trying to get ready for the party.]

**lingo** LING•go NOUN

the special vocabulary or style of speech that is used by a particular group but often not understood by others [I can't keep up with computer *lingo*; there's a new term every day!]

**meander** mee•AN•der VERB

1. to follow a winding route or path [The road *meanders* through the countryside.]
2. to wander without a definite route or direction [Lola decided to *meander* around the town to see what it was like.]

**punctual** PUNK•choo•ul ADJECTIVE

acting or happening at the correct time; prompt; on time [Anyone who is not *punctual* for basketball practice will run extra laps.]

**rarity** RARE•uh•tee NOUN

the quality of being scarce, unusual, or very special; a person or thing that has this quality [Snow is such a *rarity* in Atlanta that many children have never experienced it.]

**TEACHER:** Your child is a real rarity in this class.

**PARENT:** Oh, wow! In what way?

**TEACHER:** All the other students are going to be promoted.

**ration** RASH•un or RAY•shun

NOUN a fixed amount; a share [Each soldier gets a *ration* of food for the day.]

VERB to supply with a ration; to distribute something in fixed portions, often because there is a shortage of it [In an oil shortage, the government might *ration* gasoline.]

**shamefaced** SHAME•faced ADJECTIVE

showing a feeling of shame; ashamed [The *shamefaced* child mumbled an apology.]

**woe** WOH NOUN

great sadness, suffering, or misfortune [The couple's *woes* were not over, but things had begun to look brighter.]

## Lesson 30

**belligerent** buh•LIJ•ur•unt ADJECTIVE

eager or willing to fight; warlike [My cousin has a *belligerent* attitude; as a result, he often makes enemies.]

**chaotic** kay•OT•ik ADJECTIVE

in complete confusion and disorder [The traffic light was repaired just in time to prevent the situation from becoming truly *chaotic*.]

**extravagance** ek•STRAV•uh•gunce NOUN

1. the using or spending of more than is reasonable or necessary [Rita's bank account was emptied by her *extravagances*.]
2. an action, idea, or purchase that is more than is necessary [Taking a taxi instead of the bus was an *extravagance*.]

**forgo** for•GO VERB (also spelled *forego*)

to give up or do without [After such a big meal, perhaps we should *forgo* dessert.]

**gloat** GLOAT VERB

to feel or show happiness or satisfaction in a mean way [It is poor sportsmanship to whine about losing or to *gloat* about winning.]

**humane** hyoo•MANE ADJECTIVE

having what are considered the best qualities of human beings, such as kindness and mercy [A good dog trainer is always *humane* and never brutal.]

**ineligible** in•EL•uh•juh•bul ADJECTIVE

not qualified or suitable to be chosen [Students with failing grades are *ineligible* for election as class officers.]

**instigate** IN•stuh•gate VERB

to start or cause; to urge on or stir up [Rumors and lies helped to *instigate* the riot.]

**perpetual** pur•PECH•oo•ul ADJECTIVE

1. continuing forever; eternal [A fund was set up to provide for *perpetual* care of the park.]
2. continuing without interruption; constant [The *perpetual* barking of the neighbor's dogs kept me awake all night.]

**pinnacle** PIN•uh•kul NOUN

1. the peak of a mountain or any high, pointed place [A bird stood on the roof's *pinnacle*.]
2. the highest point or position [The *pinnacle* of our success was winning the championship.]

**plausible** PLAW•zi•bul ADJECTIVE

seeming to be true or reasonable [I could not think of a *plausible* excuse for being late.]

**scour** SKOW•ur VERB

1. to make clean and bright by rubbing, as with a brush or soap; to clean thoroughly [Jane decided to *scour* the dirty bathtub.]
2. to search thoroughly [The police will *scour* the woods, looking for the escaped convict.]

**serene** suh•REEN ADJECTIVE

not disturbed or troubled; calm [No one spoke as we took in the Grand Canyon's *serene* glory.]

**understatement** UN•dur•state•munt NOUN

a statement that "plays down," or makes little of, something by describing it as being less than it really is or less unusual than it really is [It would be an *understatement* to say that it's a bit chilly at the North Pole.]

**universal** yoo•nuh•VUR•sul ADJECTIVE

1. of all; belonging to all; concerning all; done by all [Food and shelter are *universal* needs.]
2. existing or occurring everywhere [Will this world ever find *universal* peace and good will?]

### UNIVERSAL (MAYBE) SYMBOLS

Some signs and symbols can be understood by everyone; they're universal. See which of the ones on these pages you know. Can you think of plausible meanings for the unfamiliar ones?



How universal are these symbols? Would most Americans know them or be able to figure them out? Would most Earthlings? Would visitors from other parts of the universe? (All of the signs and symbols are identified on pages 150–151.)