Lesson 1

alternative *all•TUR•nuh•tiv*
NOUN something that is one of two possible choices [I don't feel like studying, but the *alternative* is doing poorly on tomorrow's test.]
ADJECTIVE offering another possibility [Is there an *alternative* activity for those who don't like fishing?]

appease *uh•PEEZ* VERB
to make more peaceful and less angry, hateful, or upset [Betsy tried to *appease* the neighbors by offering to pay for the window she broke.]

disperse *di•SPURCE* VERB
1. to break up and scatter [The police tried to *disperse* the crowd that had gathered.]
2. to spread around; to distribute [The United Way *disperses* funds to a variety of charities.]

exempt *eg•ZEMPT*
VERB to release (someone) from something that applies to others [Miss Ito will *exempt* anyone with an *A* average from the final test.]
ADJECTIVE free from some requirement that applies to others [Arletta seems to think that she's *exempt* from the rules.]

induce *in•DOOCE* VERB
to lead (someone or something) to act in a certain way or to do something; to cause [A store may *induce* people to make purchases by putting items on sale.]

lackluster *LAK•luss•tur* ADJECTIVE
without brightness, liveliness, or excellence; lacking energy [Due to a bad headache, Gretchen gave a *lackluster* performance.]

nocturnal *nok•TUR•nul* ADJECTIVE
1. done or happening during the night [The cat's *nocturnal* search for mice kept me awake.]
2. active at night [Owls are *nocturnal* birds that sleep all day and hunt during the night.]

ASK THE ZOOKEEPER

Dear Z:
What nocturnal animals are the funniest?
Brady

Dear B:
I can't say for sure, but I do know the owls are a real hoot!

opportune *op•ur•TOON* ADJECTIVE
particularly convenient or suitable in time; coming at just the right time [When Dad mentioned his raise, it seemed an *opportune* moment to tell him I needed money for a field trip.]

pedestal *PED•us•tul* NOUN
a stand on which something is or could be placed [Each column was supported by a marble *pedestal*.]

receptive *ri•SEP•tiv* ADJECTIVE
ready or willing to receive; inclined to take a suggestion or consider a possibility [Nicole seems *receptive* to our plan, so I think we can count on her.]

spindly *SPIND•lee* ADJECTIVE
long and thin in a way that suggests a lack of strength [The legs of the chair looked too *spindly* to hold anyone's weight.]

status *STAT•us* or *STATE•us* NOUN
1. one's position in relation to others [Gene is very popular, and his *status* in the school will make him hard to beat in the election.]
2. the condition or state of something at a particular time [What is the *status* of your history report; are you almost finished with it?]

stipulation *stip•yoo•LAY•shun*
NOUN a demand or condition of an agreement [I can use the car with the *stipulation* that I fill the gas tank.]

traumatic *traw•MAT•ik* ADJECTIVE
seriously harmful, either emotionally or physically; having a lasting bad effect [Being accidentally locked in a closet was so *traumatic* that Katie still can't stand to be in a small space.]

unparalleled *un•PAIR•uh•leld*
ADJECTIVE having no equal; unmatched [We saw many lovely places, but the beauty of the Grand Canyon was *unparalleled*.]

USE A WORD ONLY ONE TIME IN EACH EXERCISE.

Exercise A: Mini-Rhyme Time

Write the Word that best completes each rhyme.

1. If a large fowl won't release your finger from its beak, you have to figure out a way to ___ the goose to let loose. _____
2. A requirement that every country take part in something is a ___ for the participation of each nation. _____
3. If an army officer wrote in a diary every evening, what he wrote might be called the colonel's ___ journal entries. _____
4. If you intend to send one of two poems to hundreds of people but, by mistake, send the one that isn't as good, you ___ the worse verse. _____

Dear Keeper:
My rabbit won't come out of my hat! As you might imagine, this results in a very lackluster trick. Got any ideas?
Gert the Great

Dear Great:
It's having a bad hare day. (By the way, I used to do that trick too, but my hat's gone missing.)

Exercise B: When . . .

Write the Word that best completes each sentence.

5. When there's a second road you can take to avoid traffic, that road is a handy . . . . . _____
6. When a person is positively the best at doing something, his or her skill is . . . . . _____
7. When new supplies arrive right before existing supplies run out, their arrival is . . . . . _____
8. When a person is hurt so badly that he or she may not recover, the injury is . . . . . _____
9. When you listen to what other people say and let their ideas affect you, you are . . . . . _____
10. When a statue is displayed in a museum but not put on the floor, it often sits on a . . . . . _____
11. When a person hears rustling in the woods at night, animals making those noises are . . . . _____
12. When you ask how far along the party preparations are, you want to know their . . . . . _____

Exercise C: Synonyms

Write the Word that could be used in place of each underlined word or phrase. This exercise continues on the next page.

13. Athletes who tend to be <u>accepting of and open</u> to coaching are likely to improve. _____
14. A note from your doctor is needed to <u>excuse</u> you from gym class. _____

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15. Sylvia's social level is very important to her. _____

16. Is there any other method of accomplishing this? _____

17. My grandmother's brownies are superior to any others. _____

18. A heron's legs look too frail to support such a large bird. _____

19. The student council will hand out funds from the bake sale. _____

20. Syrup of Ipecac is a medicine that will bring on vomiting. _____

21. The birdbath has a bowl section and a two-foot-tall base. _____

22. Our accidental meeting turned out to be timely. _____

Exercise D: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

23. Rude remarks from a clerk are likely to ***appease*** an irritated shopper. . . . . TRUE FALSE

24. Driving in a car is an ***alternative*** to flying from Boston to Chicago. . . . . TRUE FALSE

25. Sudden rain as a picnic begins would be considered ***opportune***. . . . . TRUE FALSE

26. Rewards may be used to ***induce*** people to do something. . . . . TRUE FALSE

27. Being in a bad car accident would be a ***traumatic*** event. . . . TRUE FALSE

28. ***Lackluster*** efforts usually earn a worker high praise. . . . TRUE FALSE

29. A detailed contract contains ***stipulations***. . . . . TRUE FALSE

Dear Señor:
Why does a giraffe have such a long neck?
Manuel

Dear Amigo:
A giraffe's body is so far away from its head that there's no alternative.

Exercise E: Antonyms

Write the **Word** that means the opposite of each underlined word or phrase.

30. Weightlifting can turn ___ arms into sturdy and strong ones. _____

31. I tried to ___ Mrs. Foster, but my remarks just seemed to anger her more. _____

32. If loud noises ___ a flock of sheep, the herder must gather them again. _____

33. A ___ mind can consider new ideas, but a closed one just rejects them. _____

34. I'll need to work on this ___ speech a great deal if I want it to be brilliant. _____

35. Charities are ___ from taxes, but businesses are responsible for paying them. _____

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Quick LIST

alternative N., ADJ.
appease V.
disperse V.
exempt V., ADJ.
induce V.
lackluster ADJ.
nocturnal ADJ.
opportune ADJ.
pedestal N.
receptive ADJ.
spindly ADJ.
status N.
stipulation N.
traumatic ADJ.
unparalleled ADJ.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. Don't try to give Edmund advice; he won't be _____ to it at all.
37. This new shampoo claims it can add shine to _____ hair; I hope it works.
38. Babe Ruth's record number of home runs was _____ for many years.
39. It is a bad idea to hang the tire swing from a _____ tree branch; it may break.
40. I can go out tonight, but my parents made the _____ that I be home by 10:00.
41. Extremely loud banging at our front door by a _____ visitor awakened us at one in the morning.
42. A two-for-one discount was good enough to _____ us to try the new restaurant.
43. Dylan thinks that a car indicates its owner's _____ and that people will look up to him if he drives a fancy one.
44. Humphrey tried to think of some _____ plan in case his first one didn't work.
45. I accidentally kicked a _____ that a plant was sitting on, and the plant crashed to the floor.
46. Some men were _____ from the military during World War II because of poor health or other reasons.
47. A dog that has _____ experiences as a puppy may grow up to be fearful its whole life.
48. It was quite _____ for the police car to drive by just as the robber fled the convenience store.
49. Parents who try to _____ a child who has frequent temper tantrums may end up with a spoiled child.
50. It took the guests a long time to _____ after the party because no one wanted to leave.

Dear Zook:
Once I saw you in the elephant pen, hopping around like the ground was on fire. What was that?
Hester

Dear Hest:
If a pen hasn't been cleaned after animals have . . . Well, um, walking in certain areas can be a little traumatic.

"Gotta go try to appease the great apes. Hat trick used to do it. Guess I'll try the old saw-the-gorilla-in-half trick" instead. Wish me luck!"

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