

Lesson 12

acquisition ak•wuh•ZISH•un NOUN

something acquired; something one gets or gains [We hadn't realized how much our lives would change with the *acquisition* of a puppy.]

admonish ad•MON•ish VERB

1. to scold gently [My dad is sure to *admonish* me if I use bad table manners.]
2. to caution, warn, or advise someone about his or her behavior or duties [Parents should *admonish* their children not to open the door to strangers.]

botch BOTCH

VERB to spoil by poor or clumsy work; to repair badly [If I try to fix the car myself, I may *botch* the job.]

NOUN a poor or clumsy piece of work [In her rush, Olive made a *botch* of fixing dinner.]

congenial kun•JEEN•yul ADJECTIVE

1. friendly, agreeable, and pleasant [I sat with a *congenial* girl who made me feel welcome.]
2. able to get along; having similar likes and dislikes [Luther and Ted are a *congenial* pair and do many things together.]

cope KOPE VERB

to deal with something successfully; to overcome difficulties [Mom sometimes finds it hard to *cope* with raising three children alone while she also has a job.]

deceptive di•SEP•tiv ADJECTIVE

misleading or deceiving or meant to mislead or deceive [The ice looked safe, but its appearance was *deceptive* because there were patches where it was very thin.]

detest di•TEST VERB

to strongly dislike; to hate [I *detest* that ugly shade of green.]

expertise ek•spur•TEEZ NOUN

the skill or special knowledge of an expert [Steve has developed real *expertise* as a cook.]

grim GRIM ADJECTIVE

1. appearing stern or harsh; cold and forbidding [When LaVon came home late, his father met him at the door with a *grim* face.]
2. not giving in; unyielding [With *grim* determination, the exploration party plodded on through the deepening snow.]
3. without hope; cheerless; depressing; gloomy [When Phil lost his job and his house burned down, life seemed quite *grim*.]

inhibit in•HIB•it VERB

to hold back; to hinder or make difficult [A sense of fairness should *inhibit* people from taking more than their share.]

lurch LURCH

VERB to move suddenly in an irregular and unsteady way; to suddenly roll, stagger, or rock [I caught my heel in the carpet, making me *lurch* into the room.]

NOUN a lurching movement [The roller coaster gave a *lurch* and then began to move more smoothly.]

nutritious nu•TRISH•us ADJECTIVE

providing the substances needed for growth and health [Candy bars may be delicious, but they do not make a *nutritious* meal.]

pang PANG NOUN

a sudden, sharp feeling of pain, either physical or emotional [When I landed, I felt a *pang* in my ankle.]

roundabout ROUND•uh•bout ADJECTIVE

not by the shortest route or quickest method; not direct [The main roads were clogged with traffic, so we had to take a longer, *roundabout* route to the shopping mall.]

unseemly un•SEEM•lee ADJECTIVE

not proper or decent; not in agreement with accepted standards of good taste [I stared at Maureen, shocked by her *unseemly* giggling during the memorial service.]

Exercise A: Matching

Match each phrase on the left to the phrase on the right that means the same, or nearly the same, thing.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. admonish an advisor | A. restrict the residents |
| _____ 2. a roundabout route | B. necessary know-how |
| _____ 3. a congenial contributor | C. a proper purchase |
| _____ 4. essential expertise | D. criticize a counselor |
| _____ 5. an acceptable acquisition | E. a winding way |
| _____ 6. botch the blending | F. sway sideways suddenly |
| _____ 7. inhibit the inhabitants | G. mess up the mixing |
| _____ 8. lurch to the left | H. a good-natured giver |

USE A WORD ONLY ONE TIME IN EACH EXERCISE.



Question:

What did the surgeon say to the patient after botching the operation?

Answer: "That is more than enough out of you!"

Exercise B: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that could be used in place of each underlined word or phrase.

9. Milk is one of the most healthful foods that people can consume, no matter what age they are.
10. I believed Margie completely, not realizing that her description of what happened was untrue.
11. Although their enemies were powerful, the soldiers fought on with firm courage.
12. I suffered a strong sensation of discomfort of homesickness when I heard Mom's voice.
13. It's hard to get children (or anyone else) to eat food that they truly can't stand.
14. The train started forward with a jerk, and a standing passenger nearly landed in my lap.
15. Sophie's parents always caution her to look both ways before she crosses any street.
16. If Grandma has to live alone in that big house, I don't know how she can manage.
17. After saving for years, my parents are ready to pursue the ownership of a home.
18. Ned's way of solving the problem was not the most efficient, but he eventually got the answer.

Exercise C: Antonyms

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

19. love; admire; adore _____
20. fail; surrender; give up _____
21. truthful; trustworthy; honest _____
22. respectable; appropriate; dignified _____
23. success; triumph; achievement _____
24. encourage; permit; allow _____
25. mean; cold; antisocial _____

Exercise D: Rhyme Time

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

26. My life seems overwhelming. I just hope
That I can somehow find the strength to ____.
27. Was her behavior crude? I'd say, extremely!
For everything she did was quite ____!
28. The boat is sinking fast, and I have never learned to swim.
I've got to say, right now, the future's looking pretty ____.
29. The milk and mayonnaise are warm; the ice cubes will not freeze.
We need a worker with refrigeration ____!

Exercise E: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement.

30. Is it a good idea to ask for a raise on a day
when your boss looks particularly **grim**? YES NO
31. Do **deceptive** ads give people a false impression? YES NO
32. Would people think it was **unseemly** for a
man to remarry a week after his wife died? YES NO
33. Are doughnuts and a soft drink a **nutritious** meal? YES NO
34. Does a baseball card collector have an
interest in the **acquisition** of baseball cards? YES NO
35. Is a person likely to enjoy experiencing a **pang**? YES NO

Quick LIST

acquisition N.
admonish V.
botch V., N.
congenial ADJ.
cope V.
deceptive ADJ.
detest V.
expertise N.
grim ADJ.
inhibit V.
lurch V., N.
nutritious ADJ.
pang N.
roundabout ADJ.
unseemly ADJ.

Question:

When a girl slips
and falls on ice,
what inhibits her
brother from help-
ing her get up?

Answer: He can't
be a brother and
assist her too.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. Some senators claimed that higher import taxes would _____ international trade.
37. This highway will take you straight there, but the _____ route is prettier if you have time to take it.
38. People in the crowded refugee camp had a _____ existence, because food and medicine were so scarce.
39. A bowl of whole-grain cereal is even more _____ when you add fresh fruit to it.
40. Careless workers are more likely to _____ a job than careful workers are.
41. A wave made my little rowboat _____ to one side and threw me off balance.
42. The man's kindly attitude was _____, for he wanted to harm, not help, the stranger.
43. The eight travelers were a _____ group and enjoyed being together for the voyage.
44. Her main concern was the _____ of wealth, and she worked steadily to achieve it.
45. It was difficult for Bart to _____ with the demands of his job after a poor night's sleep.
46. Does that pilot have the _____ necessary to fly in these stormy conditions?
47. Parents should always _____ their children for failing to thank people for gifts.
48. Anna experienced a _____ of guilt about hurting her friend's feelings.
49. We thought it was _____ to be so high-spirited on the day of the tragedy.
50. I really, truly _____ the taste of that medicine and can hardly make myself swallow it.



CUSTOMER (left): I'd like to try on that dress in the window.

CLERK (right): Okay, but surely it would be less unseemly if you used the dressing room like everyone else.

CUSTOMER: Don't call me Shirley. I detest that.

Exercise G: Writing

What three things would you **admonish** people for or about? Do it now in THREE sentences, each using one **Word**. Think in terms of bad habits and annoying behaviors, but write advice that's good for everyone. Here's an example: "A simple question deserves a simple answer, not a long, *roundabout* explanation or opinion."