

Lesson 15

adversity ad•VUR•suh•tee NOUN

a state of misery, misfortune, or distress [Eli's family faced great *adversity* when his father lost his job and their house burned down.]

avarice AV•uh•riss NOUN

too great a desire for money or possessions [His *avarice* caused him to cheat others for his own personal gain.]

chronological kron•uh•LOJ•ih•kul ADJECTIVE

arranged in the order in which events happened [List the major battles of World War II in *chronological* order.]

embellish em•BEL•ish VERB

1. to make more attractive by adding decorations [I think I will *embellish* this coat with fancier buttons.]
2. to make more interesting by adding details, sometimes fictitious ones [Cyrus doesn't lie exactly, but he tends to *embellish* the truth.]

excruciating ex•KROO•she•ay•ting

ADJECTIVE causing extreme suffering; very painful [The medication helped relieve the *excruciating* pain.]

feasible FEE•zuh•bul ADJECTIVE

capable of being carried out; sensible and likely to be successful [Is painting the whole house this week a *feasible* plan?]

hindsight HIND•site NOUN

the ability to see, after an event, what should have been done [In *hindsight*, it's clear that we should have taken a bus instead of walking.]

"Hindsight tells me that walking over the dog was not the most feasible way to get across the hall. Maybe if I just stand here unobtrusively for a while . . ."



impede im•PEED VERB

to delay with difficulties or stand in the way of [An accident on a busy road can *impede* the flow of traffic.]

impervious im•PUR•vee•us ADJECTIVE

1. not allowing something to pass through or penetrate [The plastic is *impervious* to water.]
2. not affected or influenced by [Polar bears seem completely *impervious* to the cold.]

insolence IN•suh•lunce NOUN

extreme disrespect that is deliberately insulting or rude [The *insolence* of the clerk was so shocking to my aunt that she swore she would never shop at that store again.]

legacy LEG•uh•see NOUN

1. a gift of money or property from a person who has died [The man's grandson received a *legacy* of several thousand dollars.]
2. anything handed down from the past [Distrust and resentment between the North and South was a lasting *legacy* of the Civil War.]

plod PLOD VERB

1. to move slowly but steadily [The weary hikers had to *plod* through deep snow.]
2. to work without enthusiasm or energy [Jessica sighed as she began to *plod* through her homework assignment.]

rant RANT

VERB to speak loudly and wildly [When Dad picked up the phone bill, I knew he was going to *rant* about wasting money.]

NOUN a loud, wild speech [The man's long *rant* included the claim that beings from another planet had taken over the government.]

unobtrusive un•ub•TRU•siv ADJECTIVE

not calling attention to oneself or itself; barely noticeable [The play had begun, so I tried to slip into the auditorium in an *unobtrusive* way]

wan WAHN ADJECTIVE

1. a lack of color in the face, often due to exhaustion or illness [Corey looked quite *wan* when he had the flu.]
2. lacking energy; weak in spirit or action [Gloria responded with a *wan* smile at my efforts to cheer her up.]

gth

Words to Go!

Exercise A: When...

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

USE A WORD ONLY ONE
TIME IN EACH EXERCISE.

1. When I lost my temper and carried on about how unfair everything was and how horribly I'd been treated, my speech was a
2. When the potato crop failed in Ireland and people had no money, no food, and little hope for the future, they suffered from great
3. When people know exactly what plays would have worked better in yesterday's football game and what decisions were mistakes, they have the benefit of
4. When King Midas asked for and got the power to turn everything he touched to gold, and then his food and water and even his daughter did, he soon regretted his
5. When you organize a photo album with your baby pictures first and then those of you at age one, age two, and so on, the arrangement you use is

Exercise B: Synonyms

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

6. We decided to trudge onward for another mile, if we could.
7. Ana made a faint and feeble response to my suggestion.
8. We are trying to come up with a workable plan.
9. Madeline sewed shiny beads on her plain dress to beautify it.
10. It seems that her greed will never be satisfied.
11. Enrique overcame hardship to get where he is today.
12. Crowds on the sidewalk will interfere with a jogger's progress.
13. The sudden cramp in my leg was unbearable.

Exercise C: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement. This exercise continues on the next page.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 14. Are assistants supposed to impede those they work for? | YES | NO |
| 15. Can a legacy be something besides money or objects—such as freedom? | YES | NO |
| 16. Are hugs and kisses supposed to be excruciating ? | YES | NO |
| 17. Would it be feasible to replace all police cars with bicycles? | YES | NO |

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 18. Can a person look at something in hindsight while it is occurring? | YES | NO |
| 19. Do roses made of frosting embellish a birthday cake? | YES | NO |
| 20. Do people who are excited about their jobs usually plod through their work? | YES | NO |

Exercise D: Opposites

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

Nothing impeded Henry from practicing his violin. Day after day, he plodded through his lessons, note by note. Unfortunately, the cat screeched and howled along with each note. To Henry this accompaniment was an amusing embellishment. To his family, it was excruciating torture.

Finally unable to stand one more screeching note, Henry's sister stormed into his room one night. "Henry, please," she pleaded, "couldn't you play something the cat doesn't know?" ■



"Does she think I like it? It's cruelty to animals!"

21. Ann struts around and likes to be the center of attention, but Jan tries to be
22. Criticism really upsets Cal, but don't bother to criticize Hal because he is
23. Most of Bree's ideas are pretty crazy and not likely to work, but Bea's are usually
24. Hank looks quite healthy with his rosy-pink cheeks, but Frank is
25. May is humble and courteous to her elders, but Fay's behavior and attitude show
26. When Mick is upset, he gets moody and silent, but Nick is likely to
27. Lu's life has been full of blessings and happiness, but Sue has had to deal with

Exercise E: What Is It?

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

28. A time line has this kind of organization.
29. This describes a warning that is a little kick under the table or a slight nudge.
30. A piece of jewelry passed from generation to generation would be this.
31. Dull stories can be made more entertaining if the storytellers do this to them.
32. This is like sassiness but even more impolite because it involves scorn.
33. This involves a looking back, but not the kind that uses a rearview mirror.
34. A black-out curtain is this to light; a good roof is this to rain.
35. This is what night or a snowstorm could do to a search for a lost hiker.

Quick LIST

adversity N.

avarice N.

chronological ADJ.

embellish V.

excruciating ADJ.

feasible ADJ.

hindsight N.

impede V.

impervious ADJ.

insolence N.

legacy N.

plod V.

rant V., N.

unobtrusive ADJ.

wan ADJ.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. I was tired and bored, but I managed to _____ through the job of folding the laundry.
37. An impatient customer began to _____ about how slow the service was.
38. Donna's grandmother left her a _____ of two hundred shares of stock.
39. Kiyo's life contained much _____, but her determination kept her from giving up.
40. My parents think it isn't _____ to have a large family reunion at our small apartment.
41. Rocky was fired for _____ when he replied to his boss by saying, "Get off my back, old timer."
42. Fallen rocks did _____ us but did not prevent us from getting through the canyon.
43. The _____ cramp in Nelda's side made her gasp and clench her teeth.
44. Please be as _____ as possible when you go into the classroom so you don't interrupt the lecture.
45. Ms. Wu tends to _____ her slide shows with fascinating bits of information about her travels.
46. Because the gem was _____ to scratching, we decided it must be a diamond.
47. Dad said that I was looking _____ and asked me if I felt all right.
48. Carlton drove ten miles before _____ made it clear that turning left had been a mistake.
49. Most of the scenes in the movie were _____, but a few flashbacks revealed earlier events.
50. In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge's _____ leads him to pile up a fortune and refuse to share any of it until he finally sees the error of his ways.

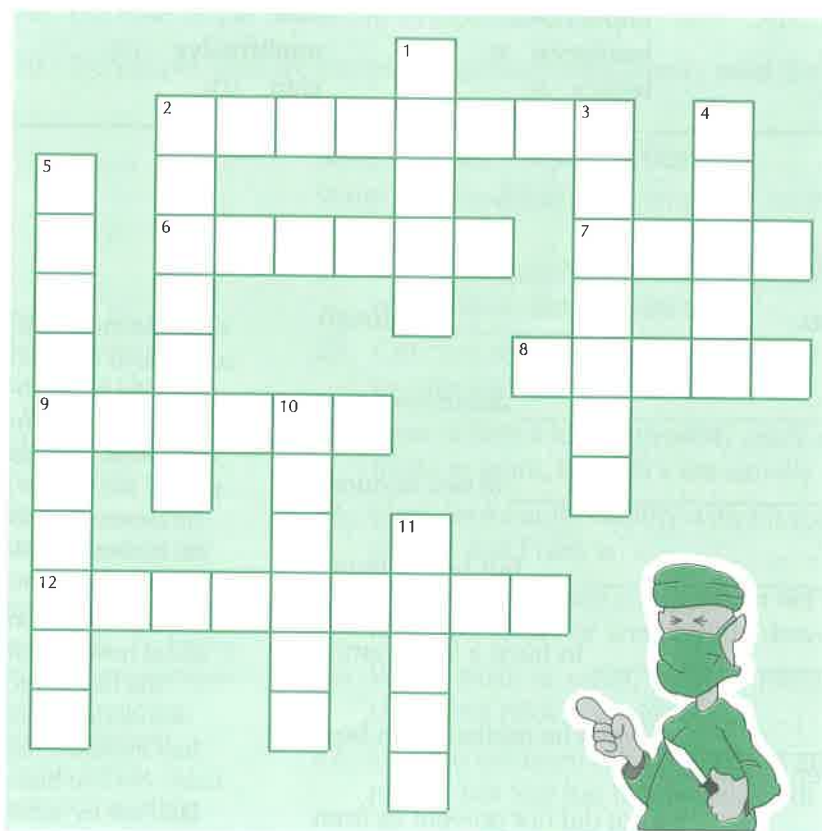
Very late one night, a teenaged cat tried to make an unobtrusive entry into the house. He was met by his mother, however, and, as he had expected, she began to rant. She went on and on about how fearful she had been, wondering what had impeded her baby. Had he been laid low by some awful adversity? Was he lying in excruciating pain in some dark alley beyond the help of his wan mother? Impervious to her concern, the young cat said insolently, "Mom, can't you just let me lead one of my own lives?" ■



"Yeah, in hindsight, I guess I could've phoned home."

Word Fun 3!

Crossing



"Hold still. This won't hurt a bit."

Digging

Find and underline the **Word** from Unit 3 that is buried in each sentence. The words to dig up are *botch*, *daft*, *distort*, *oaf*, *stoic*, and *wan*.

1. Does he feel anything? He never seems to. I can't see any sign of emotion in him.
2. You'll spoil the project if you work on it like a robot. Change your attitude. Use your brain!
3. The doctor saw a new patient who was pale and had no energy.
4. There's no point in trying to teach manners to a fool like him.
5. If you think *that* was crazy, listen to what she did afterwards!
6. Hearing you twist the meaning of what I said is torture to me.

Across

2. What scoldings or warnings do
6. Garments, clothes, or duds
7. This would describe a life without hope.
8. This describes foxes and clever people.
9. What quiet, obedient people or animals are
12. People who shut others out on purpose do this to them.

Down

1. Another word for *trap*
2. What you have when you have enough but still want more, more, more!
3. How two nights without sleep would leave a person
4. What you do to things that you line up evenly
5. This describes the route of many detours.
10. It's left to someone in a will.
11. You're likely to do this if you expect something to hurt.

Coping with a Dope

At a time of terrible adversity in her life, a woman was forced to give up her newborn twins for adoption. One boy went to an Egyptian family and was named Amal. The other was adopted by a Mexican couple, and they named him Juan. The woman never saw her sons again, but she received occasional letters from their new parents describing the boys' progress.

Defining

Match the invented word to its meaning.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. quackuisition | A. what a parent gives a child by saying "Feed the dog . . . or else!" |
| ___ 2. repercushion | B. what the school team faces while playing a much better team |
| ___ 3. ultimuttum | C. to please oneself by buying a bigger meal than is needed |
| ___ 4. advarsity | D. a result of spending too much time on the couch |
| ___ 5. splarge | E. the purchase of a duck |

Puzzling

Identify the **Word** from Unit 3 that fits the clue in each box. (The first letter is shown in the blank.) The clues in the example are the word *add* and its fancy lettering, suggesting that the **Word** is . . .



Example

embellish



2. e

anti-virus, browse, cursor, hard drive, megabytes, RAM, reboot, screen saver, shut down, taskbar, window

3. j



1. C



4. C

One day, after receiving a photograph of Juan, she dolefully told her husband that she wished she had one of Amal.

"What balderdash!" the husband admonished her. "They're identical twins!"

If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal!"



Matching

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ___ 1. impede speed | A. unusually unsuitable |
| ___ 2. a vile crocodile | B. torment in a tooth |
| ___ 3. a pang in a fang | C. deal with a dunce |
| ___ 4. cope with a dope | D. a revolting reptile |
| ___ 5. extremely unseemly | E. restrict rapidity |