

Lesson 3

amass uh•MASS VERB

to gather together a large amount [Over the years, my aunt has managed to *amass* a huge collection of rare books.]

apt APT ADJECTIVE

1. exactly right for some purpose [Virginia used an *apt* quotation to make her point.]
2. quick to learn or understand [Carlo is quite an *apt* piano student.]
3. likely [You are *apt* to fall if you run on that slippery surface.]

bleak BLEEK ADJECTIVE

without warmth or cheer; gloomy [The *bleak* plain stretched on for miles into the distance.]

concoct kun•KOKT VERB

1. to come up with (something) by using a variety of things [Are you going to *concoct* one of your amazing fruit drinks?]
2. to make up; to think up [What excuse will Melvin *concoct* for being late this time?]

craze KRAZE NOUN

something that is extremely popular at the moment [That toy was the *craze* last year.]

impressionable im•PRESH•un•uh•bul

ADJECTIVE easily impressed or influenced [Many *impressionable* people who saw that ad bought the product.]

incompatible in•kum•PAT•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

not able to go together or get along together; not able to exist in harmony [Dogs and cats are often *incompatible* animals.]

obsession ub•SESH•un NOUN

1. anything that one thinks or worries about constantly or much too much [Howie has an *obsession* with beating Shabaz in the pole vault competition.]
2. a feeling that one needs to perform some action over and over, without good reason [She has an *obsession* with washing her hands; she does it about fifty times a day.]

partition par•TISH•un

VERB to divide into parts [A new wall was built to *partition* the room.]

NOUN something that separates a space into parts, such as a wall [The *partition* dividing our room was a blanket hung from the ceiling.]

presumptuous pree•ZUMP•choo•us

ADJECTIVE

wrongly assuming that one is equal, accepted, or welcome; too confident; bold in an unthinking way [It was *presumptuous* of Erin to show up uninvited and expect us to give her dinner.]

repulsive ri•PUL•siv ADJECTIVE

very unpleasant to the senses, feelings, or thoughts; disgusting [Bradley's Halloween monster mask was really *repulsive*.]

shortcoming SHORT•kum•ing NOUN

a falling short of what is expected or needed; a weakness or fault [Being forgetful is a *shortcoming* of his that creates many problems.]

solicit suh•LISS•it VERB

to try to get (something) by asking [We went to the mall to *solicit* signatures on the petition.]

stagnant STAG•nunt ADJECTIVE

1. foul due to lack of motion [The bad smell from that *stagnant* pond will ruin our picnic.]
2. not active; not brisk [In a *stagnant* housing market, few people buy homes.]

unfounded un•FOWN•did ADJECTIVE

not based on fact or reason [Mrs. Wallace's distrust is *unfounded*; I've never lied to her.]

Still Unfounded

A hiker got lost in the woods. After wandering for days, exhausted and starving, she was thrilled to see a forest ranger coming toward her. "Thank goodness," the hiker exclaimed. "I've been lost for three days, and things were starting to look bleak!"

"Three days? Why, that's nothing!" scoffed the ranger. "I've been lost for four weeks!" ■



Exercise A: If...

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

USE A WORD ONLY ONE
TIME IN EACH EXERCISE.

1. If you tend to believe what you're told, do what others suggest, and are greatly affected by what you see and hear, you are
2. If you and your cousin argue constantly, don't enjoy the same things, and get on each other's nerves, you two are
3. If you react to something by saying "Ugh!" or "Yuck!" it's because you find this thing to be
4. If you can't get something out of your mind, and you talk about it, write about it, and dream about it, you have an
5. If you take it for granted that people want to see you, so you just show up places without being invited, you are

Exercise B: Mini-Rhyme Time

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

6. When people build a new section on a house and then make it into two rooms, they ____ the addition.
7. People who crawl into tight spaces are ____ to get trapped.
8. Seven days of boring gray skies would be a ____ week.
9. An easily clogged sink would be a ____ in the plumbing.
10. Someone who collects crystal likes to ____ glass.

Exercise C: What Is It?

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

11. People may do this by going door-to-door requesting donations.
12. This can be a product everyone wants or a style everyone follows.
13. This describes colors that clash and people who quarrel constantly.
14. This could make you do things that aren't really logical or practical.
15. This describes the water in a swamp but not the water in a waterfall.
16. You do this to a stew when you create it with some of this and some of that.
17. Teenagers show that this word describes them when they imitate their heroes' behavior.

Exercise D: Synonyms

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

18. That car's tiny trunk is a major flaw in its design.
19. That conclusion is not supported, so why do you assume it is true?
20. We have to invent a believable story to get Antonia here for her surprise party.
21. Wearing brightly colored socks became a fad at our school.
22. Through hard work, she was able to save up a huge fortune.
23. The air in the closed-up room was stale and still, so we opened the windows.
24. This food is simply gross, and I can't manage to swallow one bite.
25. I thought it was pushy of Stuart to assume that we'd give him a ride.
26. Nothing serves as a divider between the dining area and the living room.
27. The window offered only a depressing and bare view of a windswept parking lot.
28. Ahmad's remark was totally appropriate; he always knows just what to say.
29. We need to request help from the entire neighborhood to get the park cleaned up.

Criminal Obsession

Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson were camping in the English countryside.

In the middle of the night, Holmes woke up Watson and said, "Look up, and tell me what you see."

Yawning, Watson replied, "The moon."

"What does that tell you?" asked Holmes.

Exercise E: Antonyms

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

30. logical; sound; justified
31. energetic; lively; fresh
32. bright; rosy; exciting
33. join; combine; unite
34. slow; dumb; clumsy
35. humble; timid; shy



Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. In the 1920s, short hair for women was the _____, and most "modern" young ladies got a short cut.
37. There is always someone trying to _____ spare change from people just coming out of that store.
38. If I find that my roommate and I are _____, will I be able to move to a different room?
39. That advertisement's claim is _____; there's no research at all to back up what it says.
40. Drapes were rigged up to _____ the backstage area into dressing rooms for the actors.
41. If you ask me, it was _____ of Ernestine to act as if everyone would want to sit next to her.
42. My dog is so _____ at picking up new tricks that it takes only a few minutes to teach her one.
43. The _____ look on Leon's face made me realize he did not feel hopeful about what would happen.
44. Business is _____ around here during the winter, but it picks up when tourists arrive in warm weather.
45. Miguel had to _____ an enormous quantity of note cards before he felt ready to start writing his research paper.
46. My neighbor has an _____ about cleanliness; she gets upset if the entire house isn't spotless.
47. His table manners are so _____ that I can't bear to watch him eat.
48. Young children are much more _____ than adults, but most of them eventually learn to judge things for themselves.
49. Let's put our heads together and try to _____ a plan that will succeed.
50. Elsie's unwillingness to try anything new is a _____ in her character.



"Oh. Er, I suppose it means that we are apt to have another nice day tomorrow," Watson said, barely able to keep his eyes open. "That conclusion may, of course, be unfounded. What does it tell you?"

"Elementary, Watson. What it tells me is that someone has stolen our tent." ■

"Indeed," Watson grumbled, "and while you amass clues, the chances are bleak that I shall get any more sleep."

Quick LIST

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concoct V.
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partition V., N.
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