

Lesson 7

aghast uh•GAST ADJECTIVE

struck with amazed dismay; shocked and astonished [Amelia was *aghast* at the sight of the wreck.]

curt KURT ADJECTIVE

so short or brief as to seem rude [Shu Nan's reply to my invitation was a *curt* "No."]

disarray dis•uh•RAY NOUN

1. an untidy condition; disorder or confusion [After Mom and Dad's anniversary party, our house was in complete *disarray*.]
2. disorderly dress [I threw on some clothes and arrived on time but in a state of *disarray*.]

extrovert EX•truh•vurt NOUN

a sociable person who likes to be with other people and makes friends easily [One reason that Mr. Herrera is such a good salesman is that he's an *extrovert*.]

finagle fi•NAY•gul VERB

to get or arrange by cleverness or trickery; to use sneaky methods [Eli used a slight sniffle to *finagle* his way out of doing his work.]

immoral ih•MOR•ul ADJECTIVE

not moral; wrong according to the standards of right and wrong; sinful [Andy felt guilty about cheating, knowing that it was *immoral*.]

improvise IM•pruh•vize VERB

1. to perform without preparation [Sergio can *improvise* a clever song on any subject.]
2. to make from whatever is available [Let's try to *improvise* a raft from the driftwood we find on the beach.]

outlandish out•LAN•dish ADJECTIVE

very odd; extremely strange [Ivan has the *outlandish* idea that the squirrels in the back yard are trying to communicate with him.]

overcast OH•vur•kast ADJECTIVE

cloudy (said of the sky or the weather) [An *overcast* day is predicted for tomorrow.]

pittance PIT•unce NOUN

a very small allowance, wage, or payment [The workers claimed they were receiving only a *pittance* for their long hours of labor.]

quell KWEL VERB

1. to bring to a stop; to put an end to (something) by force or persuasion; to overcome [The police tried to *quell* the riot quickly and without injuries to anyone.]
2. to make calm; to quiet [The mother talked gently to her son to *quell* his fear.]

recur ri•KUR VERB

to happen or occur again [If those strange noises from last night *recur* tonight, I'm going to try to find out what's causing them.]

shirk SHIRK VERB

to avoid or leave undone (something that should be done) [You can always count on Yazmina; she won't *shirk* her obligations.]

unswerving un•SWUR•ving ADJECTIVE

1. not turning aside or changing course [The bull made an *unswerving* charge across the pasture, straight for the red pickup.]
2. steady; firm; not changing [Even when times were hard, my parents' devotion to each other was *unswerving*.]



There once was a fellow named Irving,
Whose energy Irv was conserving.
He was able to shirk
Nearly all of his work;
Irv's devotion to sleep was unswerving!

vogue VOHG NOUN

1. the fashion or style at a particular time [Both short hair and short skirts were the *vogue* for women in the 1920s.]
2. popularity or general acceptance, usually of a temporary nature [I wonder what colors will be in *vogue* this year.]

Words to Go!

Exercise A: If...

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

USE A WORD ONLY ONE TIME IN EACH EXERCISE.

1. If you scheme and plan and plot and use crafty methods to get something you want, what you do is to
2. If something is widely accepted now as a way to dress or to act or to decorate a home, but it hasn't always been, it's currently in
3. If it's about two o'clock in the afternoon, and you're in an open field but have no shadow, the day is probably
4. If someone is the life of the party and enjoys mixing with others and exchanging ideas, that person is an

Exercise B: Rhyme Time

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

5. I'd hoped for praise when I so proudly served him my dessert,
But all he said was "I've had worse," and that, I thought, was ____.
6. Fritz was chosen captain, and he was the most deserving,
His dedication to the team was solid and ____.
7. The house burned to the ground so fast
That we could only watch, ____.
8. I need a new alarm clock to be sure
My tardiness today does not ____.
9. If you don't have the right supplies,
You just might have to ____.
10. My dad said, "Put your things away.
I'm sick of all this ____!"

Exercise C: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

11. Cruelty is considered to be **immoral**. TRUE FALSE
12. Cough syrup is used to help **quell** a cough. TRUE FALSE
13. People are usually delighted to earn a **pittance**. TRUE FALSE
14. **Extroverts** tend to be shy and fearful of strangers. TRUE FALSE
15. What is in **vogue** can change from one year to the next. TRUE FALSE
16. One who accepts an assignment should be sure to **shirk** it. TRUE FALSE
17. Learning from a mistake decreases the chances that it will **recur**. TRUE FALSE

Outlandish



8th

Exercise D: Antonyms

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

18. Walter is a loner, but Maxwell is the kind of ____ who loves to meet new people.
19. After our long trip, Jenny's neatness was a sharp contrast to my wrinkled ____.
20. Can't Mary Ann ever behave in a normal way instead of doing such ____ things?
21. My new salary seemed like a huge amount compared to the ____ I got at my last job.
22. Laughing at Tomasina will only intensify her anxiety, not ____ it.
23. Al ran in a dodging and twisting way, but Barry's run was ____.
24. Elsa's response was polite and gracious, but Cathy's was ____.
25. We had hoped for a sunny day, but it was ____.

Exercise E: Synonyms

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



Aghast?

26. My dog's loyalty is strong and constant.
27. One can't rely on people who neglect their duties.
28. Is that kind of shirt the very latest thing this winter?
29. It took the king only two days to crush the rebellion.
30. Carla wouldn't shoplift; she knows that stealing is wicked.
31. When we saw the damage left by the tornado, we were horrified.
32. If you'd just pay attention, this kind of problem wouldn't come up from time to time.
33. Yoshi, Joanne, and I had to make up, on the spot, a short skit about pioneer life.
34. Zoe wasn't on the guest list, but she managed to slyly acquire an invitation to the party.
35. My three-year-old sister, who had dressed herself, was wearing a really weird outfit.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. Hoping to _____ a raise in her allowance, Aggie claimed she always spent all her money on school supplies.
37. We decided to _____ a casserole out of anything we could find in the cupboard.
38. How could Stanley _____ his responsibility to the team by missing every practice?
39. Dark red lipstick was the _____ last year, but more natural tones are "in" now.
40. The classroom was in such _____ that it looked as if a hurricane had passed through it.
41. Can people really survive on the _____ those factory employees receive for their work?
42. After he realized what he'd done was _____, his conscience really started to bother him.
43. Romeo and Juliet's love would have been _____, I think, even if they had lived for many years.
44. The drapes were open, but the day was so _____ that the room was dim without the lights on.
45. I tried to chat with Stefan, but his _____ replies to my questions did not encourage conversation.
46. Rowena has never been a real _____; she prefers to spend time alone with her music.
47. Habits are behaviors that _____ so often that one does them without even thinking.
48. Why did Jean get that _____ haircut that's so much longer on one side than the other?
49. The vet tried to _____ the gerbil's nervousness by stroking it and talking in a soothing voice.
50. Kate was so _____ at the size of the car repair bill that she was speechless.

Exercise G: Writing

Think of what things are in **vogue** right now—in clothes, hair, architecture, car design, music, computer games, movies, TV shows, and so on. On your own paper, use **TWO** or more **Words** to describe one of those things. Also explain why you think it's so popular and your own feelings about it.

Quick LIST

- aghast ADJ.
- curt ADJ.
- disarray N.
- extrovert N.
- finagle V.
- immoral ADJ.
- improvise V.
- outlandish ADJ.
- overcast ADJ.
- pittance N.
- quell V.
- recur V.
- shirk V.
- unswerving ADJ.
- vogue N.

Occur



Recur

