

Lesson 11

annihilate uh•NY•uh•late VERB
to destroy completely [A hurricane could *annihilate* this town.]

berate bee•RATE VERB
to scold sharply or harshly [It isn't fair to *berate* me for an accident that wasn't my fault.]

brink BRINK NOUN
the edge of something [A crow was perched on the *brink* of the roof.]

devise di•VIZE VERB
to work out or create something by thinking; to invent [Two prisoners worked together to *devise* an escape plan.]

dormant DOR•munt ADJECTIVE
sleeping or as if sleeping; not active [Rosebushes are *dormant* in the winter, but they start to grow again in the spring.]

drone DRONE
VERB 1. to make a steady, low, humming or buzzing sound [Listen to the airplane engine *drone*.]
VERB 2. to speak in a dull, tiresome manner [If a speaker *drones* on, I get really bored.]
NOUN a steady, low humming or buzzing sound [The *drone* of the dishwasher wasn't loud, but it still annoyed me.]

embed em•BED VERB
to set or fix firmly in (something) [It was necessary to *embed* the fence posts in cement so that they wouldn't wobble.]

frenzy FREN•zee NOUN
very great excitement; a wild outburst of feeling or action [Five ambulances arrived at once, and the emergency room burst into a *frenzy* of noise and activity.]

hurtle HUR•tul VERB
to move swiftly and with great force [We watched the train *hurtle* past.]

improbable im•PROB•uh•bul ADJECTIVE
not likely to happen or be true; unlikely [My brother hopes to get a car for his birthday, but I think that's *improbable*.]

jeopardy JEP•ur•dee NOUN
great risk or danger of loss, injury, or death [The troops at the front lines faced the greatest *jeopardy*.]

lax LAX ADJECTIVE
1. not careful or watchful enough; careless [Don't be *lax* about capitalizing proper nouns.]
2. allowing too much freedom; not strict [The coach was *lax* about whether we showed up for practice, so our team was pretty bad.]
3. not tense, tight, or firm; loose [A *lax* clothesline will droop.]

What If People Asked Dogs to Change Burned-Out Light Bulbs?



BLOODHOUND: Can it wait, pal? I'm on the brink of a real discovery here. I'm pretty sure that there's a piece of sausage pizza in back of this sofa.

POODLE: *Oui*, of course, but why all zis, how you say, frenzy? Zee dark is so romantic, *oui*?

meager MEE•gur ADJECTIVE
barely enough or not enough in amount or quantity [The tiny store on the corner has only a *meager* supply of canned goods.]

obstruction ub•STRUK•shun NOUN
anything that is an obstacle; someone or something that interrupts or gets in the way [A fallen tree created an *obstruction* in the road.]

undeniable un•di•NY•uh•bul ADJECTIVE
that cannot be denied; unquestionable; certain [Lily's talent is *undeniable*, but I wonder about her willingness to practice.]

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Exercise A: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that is a synonym for each set of words.

DALMATIAN: You say something burned? Where was the fire? Did you call the fire department? Was anyone in jeopardy?

DACHSHUND: Is it the ceiling light? Because it's highly improbable that I can reach the ceiling light.

1. develop; form; make
2. obvious; sure; absolute
3. inactive; motionless; quiet
4. easygoing; relaxed; careless
5. rush; race; dash
6. rim; border; brim

Exercise B: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question.

7. What might you call parents who had very few rules for their children?
8. What do you do to a nail when you pound it into wood?
9. What do rafts do if they go over a waterfall?
10. What noise do bees and power mowers make?
11. What do you do to someone when you bawl him or her out?
12. What do bombs do to their targets?
13. What kind of lunch is half a sandwich and four grapes?

GREYHOUND: Sure, I can change it. First I'll hurtle down to the hardware store for a bulb. Back in a flash!

HUSKY: I shall not fail you! No obstruction will keep me from . . . from . . . um, what is a light bulb?

Exercise C: Antonyms

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

14. calmness; peace; inactivity
15. loosen; remove; withdraw
16. lively; energetic; awake
17. stroll; crawl; creep
18. safety; security; protection
19. praise; congratulate; applaud

Exercise D: If...

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

20. If you're late and rushing around, searching madly for your homework, and throwing books in your backpack, you're in a
21. If you have your hand in the cookie jar and crumbs all over your chin, the fact that you've been snacking is just plain
22. If a house is on fire, and people climb out on the roof to get away, and the roof is high above the ground, the people are in
23. If it's possible for something to happen but only barely possible, and you don't think it will happen, you'd say it was
24. If someone leaves his or her bicycle on the sidewalk so that people have to go around it on the grass, the bike is an annoying

Exercise E: Other Forms of Words

Using what you know about the **Words**, choose the correct answers.

- ___ 25. Bears are in a state of **dormancy** when they
A. hibernate. B. raid a campsite. C. defend their cubs.
- ___ 26. What is most likely to **jeopardize** a forest?
A. a tent B. a raccoon C. a campfire
- ___ 27. What would be most likely to cause the **annihilation** of a house?
A. a robbery B. a tornado C. a new roof
- ___ 28. What is meant to be **obstructive**?
A. a path B. a roadblock C. an ambulance
- ___ 29. Which has the greatest **improbability**?
A. a blizzard in July B. a rainbow after rain C. noise on a playground

ENGLISH BULLDOG:

I say, old chap, it was a bit lax of you to allow this to happen again, don't you think?

ST. BERNARD: A bulb? Pah! Listen, fella, I'm going to embed myself in that snow drift. You wake me up when there's an avalanche. Okay?

Exercise F: Rhyme Time

Write the **Word** that best completes each rhyme. This exercise continues on the next page.

30. I turned a perfect paper in and waited, proud and eager.
My teacher said, "Not bad." I thought her praise was rather
31. The vacuum cleaner doesn't work; there's hardly any suction.
Something's jammed the hose and has created an
32. The king got so drowsy he slumped in his throne,
Put to sleep by advisers who spoke in a
33. The canyon is deep; you'd be safer, I think,
If you didn't wear skates to peer over the

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34. Whoever builds the strongest bridge is going to win a prize.
So make a drawing. Get supplies. See what you can
35. If colors fade and zippers break on your new pair of slacks,
The standards at the place where they were made are far too

Exercise G: Fill-in

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence. Use each word only once.

36. One small wood stove provided only _____ warmth
against the chill of the night.
37. Uncontrolled hunting managed to _____ the great,
wild buffalo herds that once roamed the West.
38. Cars used to _____ down our street until the city
installed speed bumps.
39. Mara went into a _____ when she realized that her
dinner guests would be arriving in an hour.
40. If a grape gets stuck in your throat, the _____ it
creates can cut off your air supply.
41. Just because a volcano has been _____ for many
years doesn't mean it will never erupt again.
42. Walter is in _____ of losing his job because he has
been late to work so many times.
43. If the police are _____ about enforcing speeding
laws, highways become quite dangerous.
44. Looking down from the _____ of the cliff, I could see
how steep it was.
45. Mom is trying to _____ a system that will get us all
out of the house on time in the morning.
46. It's _____ that a field this wet can get dry enough for
a baseball game this afternoon.
47. Listening to the tires _____ on made me drowsy as
we drove down the highway.
48. When my parents see my terrible report card, they will _____
me for not studying harder.
49. Don't walk barefoot on this floor unless you want to _____
a splinter in your foot.
50. Rudy's statement that cars changed American life was _____, but
I disagreed when he said that all the changes were good.

Quick LIST

annihilate V.
berate V.
brink N.
devise V.
dormant ADJ.
drone V., N.
embed V.
frenzy N.
hurtle V.
improbable ADJ.
jeopardy N.
lax ADJ.
meager ADJ.
obstruction N.
undeniable ADJ.

**BASSET
HOUND:**
Must you
drone on
about it?
I have such
a headache.