

Lesson 13

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

ardent
är' dənt

adj. Intensely eager; passionate.

In spite of Miriam's **ardent** praise of Walter, I was not convinced of his ability.

ardor *n.* Passionate intensity of feeling.

Romeo's **ardor** led him to take great risks to see his beloved Juliet.

assail
ə sāl'

v. 1. To attack violently or verbally.

Critics **assailed** the book when it first appeared but the reading public loved it.

2. To trouble in the mind.

Feelings of remorse **assailed** Lord Jim for his single act of cowardice.

asset
a' set

n. 1. Anything owned that is of value and can be sold or otherwise disposed of.

The late Mr. Kim's **assets** include a valuable stamp collection.

2. A quality that can be used to advantage.

Height can be a great **asset** in a basketball player.

barter
bār' tər

v. To exchange goods or services without the use of money.

Money was of little use in Plymouth Colony so the Pilgrims **bartered** with the Native Americans for the things they needed.

n. The exchange of goods or services without the use of money.

Commerce was conducted by **barter** when Iraq's currency collapsed after the 2003 invasion.

bonanza
bə nan' zə

n. A source of great wealth; something that brings great riches.

The musical "Cats" was a **bonanza** for the estate of T.S. Eliot, as he wrote the book of poems on which it is based.

contagious
kən tā' jəs

adj. Able to be passed easily from one person to another.

They say that laughter is **contagious**.

contemplate
kən' təm plāt

v. 1. To give careful thought to; to ponder.

Einstein **contemplated** the relationship between matter and energy.

2. To have plans to; to intend.

While still playing basketball, Michael Jordan **contemplated** becoming a professional baseball player.

deter
dē tur'

v. To discourage or prevent from taking action.

Yesterday's rough seas **deterred** the divers from exploring the sunken ship.

deterrent *n.* Anything that prevents or discourages.

A "Keep Off" sign acts as a **deterrent** against trespassers.

flair
flār

n. A natural gift or ability; a talent.

Jimmy Doo's **flair** for bantering with audience members made him a popular entertainer.

forfeit
fōr' fit

v. To be forced to give up or lose.

If you leave the stadium before the end of the concert, you **forfeit** the right to return.

n. Something lost or given up as a result of an error or failing.

You have to pay a **forfeit** if you can't answer the question.

innovation

in ə vā' shən

- ✓ *n.* Something new; a new way of doing something.
Adding sound to movies was an **innovation** that transformed the film industry.
innovative (i' nə vā tiv) *adj.* Marked by freshness or originality; willing to try new things.
Companies succeed by being **innovative** and keeping up with the latest technology.

mania

mā' ne ə

- n.* An intense or extreme enthusiasm or excitement.
The trendy new video game system caused a **mania** in toy stores.

stymie

stī' mē

- v.* To thwart; to make difficulties for or find problems with.
Attempts to make super-conductive materials were **stymied** by the extremely low temperatures required.

synonymous

sī non' ə məs

- ✓ *adj.* Alike or close in meaning; closely related.
The company boasts that its name is **synonymous** with quality.

wrangle

raj' gəl

- v.* To quarrel in a noisy or angry way.
Sue and Mario **wrangled** over whose turn it was to cut the grass.

13A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 13. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) is to recover it. (c) To contemplate something
(b) is to consider it. (d) To barter something

2. (a) a new method or improvement. (c) A mania is
(b) An innovation is (d) a collection of objects.

3. (a) To be stymied (c) is to be friendly.
(b) To be contagious (d) is to be thwarted.

4. (a) anything that discourages or prevents. (c) A flair is
(b) A deterrent is (d) a bright signal light.

5. (a) Ardor is (c) intensity of feeling.
(b) Barter is (d) an act of spite or revenge.

6. (a) is to receive it. (c) is to attack it.
(b) To assail something (d) To forfeit something

ardent

assail

asset

barter

bonanza

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stymie

synonymous

wrangle

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7. (a) A bonanza is
(b) A flair is | (c) an irrational fear.
(d) a source of riches. |
| 8. (a) is to use it up or exhaust it.
(b) To forfeit something | (c) is to have to give it up.
(d) To barter something |
| 9. (a) To be contagious is to be
(b) To be synonymous is to be | (c) of unknown authorship.
(d) passed easily to others. |
| 10. (a) To barter is to
(b) quarrel or argue. | (c) To wrangle is to
(d) to help or encourage. |

13B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold word or phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 13.

1. To Sid's mom, motorcycles and danger are **closely related in her mind**.
2. Maisie is **making plans for** six months of travel in Bolivia before resuming her studies.
3. "I don't understand this **intense and uncontrollable desire** for shopping," said Grandpa crossly.
4. Don't let a minor setback **keep** you from doing what is best for you.
5. The twins began to **quarrel in a noisy manner** over whose turn it was.
6. The ability to identify with voters' concerns is a great **quality that can be used to advantage** when running for public office.
7. The society had no need of money as it survived economically by **exchanging goods and services with others**.
8. The poet has many admirers, and they are all **full of passionate intensity** in their support.
9. If the defendant does not show up, the money he paid to the court is **kept by those who were holding it**.
10. When it comes to making friends, Pam has a real **ability that seems to come naturally to her**.

13C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below.
Questions may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following were at one time considered an **innovation**?

- (a) parents
- (b) waterfalls
- (c) computers
- (d) radio

2. Which of the following might be a **deterrent** to someone?

- (a) threats of punishment
- (b) hope of reward
- (c) offers of friendship
- (d) fear of failure

3. Which of the following might exhibit **ardor**?

- (a) an advocate
- (b) a painting
- (c) a fanatic
- (d) a connoisseur

4. Which of the following can **stymie** someone?

- (a) a problem
- (b) a mystery
- (c) a riddle
- (d) an equation

5. For which of the following might one have a **flair**?

- (a) languishing in prison
- (b) impersonating celebrities
- (c) taking out the trash
- (d) hot air ballooning

6. Which of the following could **assail** someone?

- (a) doubts
- (b) blows
- (c) fears
- (d) threats

7. Which of the following can be an **asset**?

- (a) money
- (b) good health
- (c) a gold watch
- (d) knowledge

8. Which of the following could be **bartered**?

- (a) food
- (b) labor
- (c) cash
- (d) a table

ardent

assail

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barter

bonanza

contagious

contemplate

deter

flair

forfeit

innovation

mania

stymie

synonymous

wrangle

13D Word Study

Choose from the two words provided and use each word only once when filling in the spaces. One space should be left blank.

assailed/attacked

1. The president was _____ from every quarter by bad news.
2. Everyone agrees that the dog _____ the mail carrier.
3. Jonah _____ the ball with a mighty swing and sent it out of the ballpark.

bartered/exchanged

4. I went to the store and _____ the sweater I'd bought for a larger size.
5. She says she _____ the house for over a million dollars.
6. The Pilgrims _____ manufactured goods for food brought by the Wampanoags.

deter/discourage

7. Temperatures of over 700 degrees _____ life from forming on Venus.
8. We _____ people who have no experience from applying for the job.
9. The high admission standards are designed to _____ all but the most gifted applicants.

discern/detect

10. After staring at the puzzle for a while, I began to _____ a pattern.
11. If there's carbon monoxide present, this gadget will _____ it immediately.
12. I _____ that Millie hardly ever goes out of the house these days.

enhance / improve

13. They decided to _____ the journey by going first-class.
14. A course in etiquette would _____ her manners.
15. A new kitchen will certainly _____ the value of your home.

13E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows.

More Than Just a Pretty Flower

The Winkel family lived in the town of Alkmaar in Holland. There was Mr. Winkel himself, his wife Elisabeth, and their seven children. Winkel had a **flair** for business, and the family was well provided for. He kept a tavern in Alkmaar and also raised tulips, which were just then becoming fashionable in Holland. Sadly, sometime between 1631 and 1635 (the date is uncertain), Elisabeth died, leaving her husband a widower with three boys and four young girls to care for.

More misfortune was to follow; in 1636, Mr. Winkel died. In those days, it was not uncommon for children to lose both parents, and in fact, the Winkel children were luckier than most. Thanks to its trade with the East Indies, Holland was one of the wealthiest countries in Europe. Money was being poured into fine houses in Amsterdam and Haarlem, into paintings and other works of art (this was the age of Rembrandt and Franz Hals), and into all manner of luxury goods. But money also went into such **innovations** as government-run orphanages. And it was to the Alkmaar orphanage that the seven Winkel children were taken, where, you may be sure, they were very unhappy, although well cared for by the standards of the time.

Winkel's **assets** had been the tavern, worth very little, and his patch of tulip bulbs planted several years earlier. In the spring of 1636, just before he died, records show that he owned about seventy bulbs, prized for their rarity and beauty, as well as a number of lesser varieties. Several years earlier, the prices that some bulbs fetched at tulip auctions had begun to rise, slowly at first. The trend accelerated as more and more people saw a rare opportunity to get rich. Prices could double in a week. It was important to act quickly.

Soon, single bulbs were selling for hundreds, then thousands of guilders. This was at a time when a carpenter's annual earnings were about 250 guilders a year. For a deposit of a hundred guilders and a written promise to pay the balance at a later date, a person could buy a bulb worth a thousand guilders. Then it was just a matter of waiting for the price to double and sell the bulb for a profit of a thousand guilders. A carpenter could make as much in a week as he could by working for four years! Repeat this a few times and he could now **contemplate** a life of ease. To raise the hundred guilders, of course, he had to sell his tools.

Greed is **contagious**! The number of buyers increased rapidly even as the supply of bulbs remained unchanged. Those who had been indifferent to the tulip craze now became **ardent** bidders at the bulb auctions held throughout the land. Most knew little or nothing of business, or of tulips for that matter, but that did not **deter** buyers.

The **mania** was at its height by February 5, 1637, when Winkel's collection of tulip bulbs was sold at auction, the proceeds to be shared among his children, who, you may remember, were living at the Alkmaar orphanage. Those attending were, for the most part, wealthy connoisseurs seeking to add to their already exquisite collections. This was a unique opportunity for them to obtain some of the rarest, most beautiful tulips in the world, for Mr. Winkel had known just what he was doing when he planted his tulip patch several years earlier. That night, the bidding exceeded the most wildly optimistic forecasts. Seventy exceptionally rare tulip bulbs, plus a number of lesser varieties, realized ninety thousand guilders (about twelve million today in U.S. dollars).

Almost immediately, those involved in the tulip trade were **assailed** by doubts. Surely, prices couldn't possibly go any higher. All at once everyone wanted to sell and no one wanted to buy. Buyers and sellers were **stymied** in their efforts to settle accounts. Those who had previously agreed to buy refused to take delivery and **forfeited** their deposits. Those who had **bartered** their homes for a tulip bulb were now homeless.

The Winkel children were not involved in any of this **wrangling**. The three boys and four little girls were rich, and their **bonanza** was secure. But thousands of bewildered traders in the bulb business were ruined. Ironically, Holland never lost its love for tulips. In fact, Holland and tulips are **synonymous** to this day, as any visitor to that country will tell you.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. Before 1630, what were the Winkel family's **assets**?
2. Trade meant wealth for Holland. Give some examples of what wealth brought.
3. Explain how the rise in price of bulbs gave a worker a future to **contemplate**.
4. Did Winkel have good business sense?
5. What does **contagious** mean as it is used in the passage?
6. What should have **deterred** bidders at the bulb auctions?
7. When did the **mania** for tulip sales reach its height?
8. What happened to the **ardor** of bidders after this date?
9. If bulb traders were **assailed** by doubts, how did that affect the business?
10. The word **stymie** originated in golf. It meant an object that obstructed a ball or another ball that obstructed a ball. What **stymied** bulb trade?

11. What did many **forfeit**?

12. How did some become homeless?

13. Before the trade collapsed, who enjoyed a **bonanza**?

14. What do you think the ruined traders were **wrangling** about?

15. If Holland is **synonymous** with tulips, what might Hawaii be **synonymous** with?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Don't confuse **flair** with its homophone *flare*, "a bright light used as a signal."

As well as being a complete word by itself, **mania** attaches to a number of roots to form other words related to mental illness. These include: *pyromania*, an uncontrollable desire to start fires; *kleptomania*, an uncontrollable desire to steal; and *trichotillomania*, an uncontrollable desire to pull out one's own hair.

Wrangle has an additional meaning to that given in the glossary, one that comes from the days of the

Old West. To cowboys, wrangling meant herding cattle. In fact, wrangler is another name for cowboy. If a dispute arose while doing their job, a pair of cowboys could wrangle cattle and wrangle with one another, even on horseback.