

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.]

Lesson 12

absurd ab•SURD ADJECTIVE

so clearly untrue, unreasonable, or against common sense as to be laughable; ridiculous [The idea may seem *absurd* today, but people once thought the Earth was flat.]

boycott BOY•kot

VERB to join together in refusing to buy, sell, or use a product or service [As long as that company uses child labor, we should *boycott* the shoes it sells.]

NOUN the act of boycotting [The leader of the group called for a *boycott* of lettuce.]

clamber KLAM•ur VERB

to climb awkwardly or with effort, especially by using both the hands and feet [We had to *clamber* up the slope with our sleds, but the ride down was great!]

Question: How do you catch a squirrel?

like a nut.
up a tree and act
Answer: Clamber



divert duh•VURT VERB

1. to turn (a person or thing) aside; to change the direction or course of [We made a ridge of dirt and rocks to *divert* the stream.]
2. to amuse or entertain [I tried to *divert* the children by telling them an exciting story.]

forlorn for•LORN ADJECTIVE

sad; miserable [Rain ruined the plans for a picnic and left the children *forlorn*.]

haven HAY•vun NOUN

any place of shelter or safety [When a storm blew in, an old barn became our *haven*.]

logic LOJ•ik NOUN

1. correct reasoning [Logic should convince you that eating less helps a person lose weight.]
2. a way of reasoning, whether correct or incorrect [Would you explain your *logic*?]

reconcile REK•un•sile VERB

1. to make friends again [We were always quick to argue but quick to *reconcile*, too.]
2. to make satisfied or content [I had to *reconcile* myself to sharing my room.]

skeptical SKEP•ti•kul ADJECTIVE

having or showing doubt; questioning; disbelieving [That boy lies so often that I can't help being *skeptical* about everything he says.]

superfluous soo•PUR•floo•us ADJECTIVE

more than is needed or wanted; not needed; unnecessary [Keep your explanation short; leave out *superfluous* details.]

tempo TEM•po NOUN

1. the speed at which a piece of music is played [The song's *tempo* was fast.]
2. rate of activity; pace or speed [The guards marched back and forth at a steady *tempo*.]

toxic TOK•sik ADJECTIVE

poisonous [Many cleaning product are *toxic* and must be kept away from young children.]

vivid VIV•id ADJECTIVE

1. clear and lively; forming clear images in the mind [She included *vivid* details in her story.]
2. bright; intense (said of colors, light, and so on) [Max has beautiful, *vivid* blue eyes.]
3. strong and definite [I have *vivid* memories of the day we moved.]

waver WAY•vur VERB

1. to be or become unsteady; to tremble; to sway [When I'm nervous, my voice *wavers*.]
2. to hesitate; to find it hard to decide [Mom has started to *waver* about where we should go on our vacation.]

zoology zoh•ALL•uh•jee NOUN

the study of animals, their life, growth, and so on [For her class in *zoology*, Jo keeps a journal of what she sees on her visits to the zoo each week.]

Lesson 13

amble AM•bul VERB

to walk in a relaxed and unhurried way [I love to *amble* in the woods in the morning.]

bewilderment bi•WIL•dur•munt NOUN

a state of hopeless confusion [I got off the train at the wrong station and looked around in *bewilderment*.]

buoyant BOY•unt ADJECTIVE

1. having the ability to float or rise in air or a liquid [Lucy's life jacket made her *buoyant*.]
2. having a light and cheerful attitude or spirit [Terry's *buoyant* response to the problem made us all believe it could be solved.]

combustible kum•BUSS•tuh•bul ADJECTIVE

able to catch fire and burn easily [Make sure that the candle flame isn't near anything *combustible*.]

commence kuh•MENCE VERB

to begin; to start [The next game will not *commence* until four o'clock.]

debris duh•BREE NOUN

rubbish, litter, or waste [A big wind blew the garbage cans over, scattering *debris* in the alley.]

embezzle em•BEZ•ul VERB

to steal money that has been left in one's care or that one has been trusted with [The store owner discovered that one of her employees planned to *embezzle* the profits.]

fluent FLOO•unt ADJECTIVE

flowing smoothly; able to speak or write easily and rapidly [Rick speaks *fluent* French.]

gaunt GAHNT ADJECTIVE

very thin and bony in appearance, as from hunger or illness [As the grass died from lack of rain, the cattle became *gaunt*.]

hue HYOO NOUN

a color or a shade of a color [Maria gave the fabric a lovely *hue* by soaking it in tea.]

idle EYE•dul

ADJECTIVE 1. not active or working [There is a lot to do, so none of us can be *idle*.]

ADJECTIVE 2. lazy; unwilling to work [Our *idle* neighbor won't look for a job.]

VERB 1. to do no work [Tomorrow I plan just to *idle* away the hours.]

VERB 2. to run a motor while it is not in gear [If you let the car *idle* awhile, it will warm up.]

pedigree PED•uh•gree NOUN

ancestors or a list of ancestors [Our puppy has sheep dogs in his *pedigree*.]

relinquish ri•LING•kwish VERB

to give (something) up or let go [Your plan is hopeless, and you might as well *relinquish* it.]



THE ISLAND

Three men were shipwrecked on an island. Andy was the first to pick himself up and look around. Nearby was Mandy, gaunt from exhaustion. And there was Randy, his face the greenish hue of someone who has swallowed too much seawater.

Andy's buoyant spirit had often pulled him through bad times, and now he said, "Cool beach, huh?" The others groaned, but in a way that told him they were okay.

salvage SAL•vij

NOUN the rescue of property from destruction or the property that is saved [The flames' heat prevented the *salvage* of any of our belongings.]

VERB to save something from destruction [Divers were able to *salvage* some items from the wrecked ship.]

wretched RECH•id ADJECTIVE

1. extremely unfortunate or unhappy; miserable [The war made their lives *wretched*.]

2. in very poor condition or of very poor quality; terrible [My performance at bat was truly *wretched*.]

Lesson 14

abundant uh•BUN•dunt ADJECTIVE

more than enough; very plentiful [The lake has *abundant* fish.]

behold bee•HOLD VERB

to hold in view; to look at
[Watch that actor if
you want to *behold*
a future star.]



colossal kuh•LOSS•ul ADJECTIVE

huge; astonishingly large [The Pentagon is a truly *colossal* building.]

destiny DESS•tuh•nee NOUN

something that is certain to happen; fate
[Willis believes it is his *destiny* to become a Major League superstar.]

judicious joo•DISH•us ADJECTIVE

having or using good judgment; wise and careful [The committee has produced a *judicious* plan.]

locale loh•KAL NOUN

a place; a specific environment [I received a post card from every *locale* Aunt Jillian visited on her trip.]

lull LUL

NOUN a short period of quiet or lessened activity; a calm [After a *lull* in May, business picked up in June.]

VERB to make or become calm; to soothe [Humming softly, the grandmother was able to *lull* the children to sleep.]

medley MED•lee NOUN

1. a mixture of things not usually found together [The stew was a *medley* of flavors.]
2. a piece of music made up of parts of other music selections [Joanna sang a *medley* of tunes from Broadway shows.]

obsolete OB•suh•leet ADJECTIVE

no longer in use or in fashion; out-of-date [In the age of computers, typewriters have become almost *obsolete*.]

onset ON•set NOUN

a beginning [Gary took the lead at the *onset* of the race but couldn't hold onto it.]

ramshackle RAM•shak•ul ADJECTIVE

loose and shaky; likely to fall to pieces [Only a daredevil would cross that *ramshackle* bridge.]

reside ri•ZIDE VERB

1. to dwell for a long time; to make one's home [Molly *resides* with her mother.]
2. to exist or be present [In a democracy, power *resides* in the people.]

taboo tuh•BOO

NOUN a custom, tradition, or rule that prohibits something, or the thing that is prohibited [In most societies, eating human beings is a *taboo*.]

ADJECTIVE prohibited or forbidden by social custom or tradition [Some behaviors that seem normal to us are *taboo* in other lands.]

tantalize TAN•ti•lize VERB

to tempt by keeping something desirable just out of reach or by making it unavailable or impossible to obtain; to tease [The birds outside our window *tantalize* my cat, who watches them hungrily from inside.]

utilize YOO•tuh•lize VERB

to make use of; to put to practical use [The manager tried to find ways to *utilize* each employee's skills and talents.]

Lesson 15

bungle BUNG•gul VERB

to work, act, do, or make (something) in a clumsy, unskillful way [Take your time with that, or you'll *bungle* the job.]

confront kun•FRONT VERB

1. to meet face to face [What if we *confront* a bear on the path?]
2. to meet or face in a bold or challenging way [The two top-rated teams will *confront* one another in the first round of the tournament.]

deficient di•FISH•unt ADJECTIVE

lacking some necessary thing or part; imperfect; incomplete [If your diet is *deficient* in vitamins, you will have poor health.]

diverse di•VURCE ADJECTIVE

different; unlike; varied or mixed [The *diverse* group included farmers, doctors, and artists of all ages and from all over the country.]

emphatic em•FAT•ik ADJECTIVE

said, felt, or done with emphasis, or force; strongly expressive [Her answer was an *emphatic* no.]

imperil im•PAIR•ul VERB

to put in danger [If the fire spreads, it will *imperil* the whole neighborhood.]

initiate ih•NISH•ee•ate VERB

1. to begin or start [The teacher asked a question to *initiate* a discussion.]
2. to admit a person into a club or group, especially with a special ceremony [Our club will *initiate* six new members next month.]

merit MAIR•it

NOUN quality, worth, or excellence [I think that Sam's plan has *merit*.]

VERB to be deserving of or qualified for [Does she *merit* a second chance?]

minimize MIN•uh•mize VERB

1. to reduce to the least possible amount or degree; to make as small as possible [Let's try to *minimize* the clutter in this room.]
2. to treat, use, or consider as being of little importance or value [Whether it's for band or baseball or bird-watching, don't *minimize* the importance of practice.]



Mouse



Minimize

Mini Mouse

populous POP•yoo•lus ADJECTIVE

having a large population; crowded with inhabitants [New Jersey is far more *populous* than Wyoming, but Wyoming has twelve times as much land area.]

recipient ri•SIP•ee•unt NOUN

a person or thing that receives [A gift tag usually identifies both the *recipient* and the person the gift is from.]

scrawl SCRAWL

NOUN irregular, almost unreadable handwriting [The artist signed the painting with a *scrawl*.]

VERB to write or draw quickly and carelessly; to write with poorly formed letters [If you *scrawl* the list, I won't know what to get.]

unsightly un•SITE•lee ADJECTIVE

unpleasant to look at; ugly [Weeds had made the garden *unsightly*.]

unwieldy un•WEEL•dee ADJECTIVE

hard to handle or control because of size, weight, or shape [My *unwieldy* suitcase slowed me down.]

verbal VUR•bul ADJECTIVE

1. having to do with words; made up of words; using words [Alice has excellent *verbal* skills.]

2. said rather than written [We had only a *verbal* contract.]