

# Lesson 15

## Definitions



1.	<b>abate</b>	uh BAYT	to reduce in intensity or amount
	Synonyms >>	decrease, diminish, dwindle, ebb, lessen, reduce, wane	Antonym >> to increase
		The flood waters abated after forty days of rain.	
	Derivatives >>	abatable, abater, abatement, abated, abating	
2.	<b>antecedent</b>	an tuh SEE dunt	preceding a cause
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> following; later
		The argument between the two men was antecedent to the fight which followed.	
	Derivatives >>	antecedence, antecedency, antecede, antecedently	
3.	<b>arid</b>	AIR id	very dry
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> moist
		The desert is an arid place.	
	Derivatives >>	aridity, aridness, aridly	
4.	<b>baneful</b>	BANE ful	a source of harm or destruction; harmful, destructive
	Synonyms >>	deleterious, detrimental, noxious, pernicious	Antonym >> benign influence; harmless
		Overeating was the bane of her existence. The baneful herbs made the woman extremely ill.	
	Derivatives >>	baneful, banefully, banefulness	
5.	<b>beleaguer</b>	buh LEEG er	to harass
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to shield from
		The scandal caused the President to be beleaguered by the press.	
	Derivatives >>	beleaguered, beleaguerer	
6.	<b>contempt</b>	kun TEMPT	scorn, extreme dislike or disdain
	Synonyms >>	despicableness, pitiableness, scurviness	Antonym >> respect
		The man treated the gossiping woman with contempt; talking about other people was beneath his dignity.	
	Derivatives >>	contemptible, contemptuous	
7.	<b>cynical</b>	SIN uh kul	given to faultfinding, sneering, and sarcasm; exhibiting mocking disbelief
	Synonyms >>	misanthropic, pessimistic, misogynic	Antonym >>
		Some people are so cynical they sneer at everything that would make life worthwhile.	
	Derivatives >>	cynic, cynically, cynicism	
8.	<b>dexterous</b>	DEK struss	skillful and active with the hands; manually adroit and skillful
	Synonyms >>	deft, handy	Antonym >> clumsy
		The machine shop advertised for a dexterous worker.	
	Derivatives >>	dexterity, dexterously, dexterousness, dextral	
9.	<b>dour</b>	DOUR, DOW ur	sullen, stern, harsh
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> cheerful in appearance
		His dour behavior was caused by the rain washing out his golf game.	
	Derivatives >>	dourly, dourer, dourest	
10.	<b>exalt</b>	ig ZALT	to glorify, to praise, to raise in rank
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to defame; to deprecate
		The woman was exalted for her successes in the field of science.	
	Derivatives >>	exalted, exalting, exalts, exaltation, exaltedly, exaltedness, exalter	
11.	<b>felicitous</b>	feh LIS eh tus	happy or delightful
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sad; gloomy; morose
		Her marriage was a felicitous occasion.	
	Derivatives >>	felicitate, felificic, felicitation, felicitously, felicitousness, felicity	

12.	<b>impeccable</b>	im PEK uh bul	free from fault or blame
	Synonyms >>	flawless, irreproachable	Antonym >> flawed
	She was a woman of impeccable character and could not be blamed for the smallest wrongdoing.		
	Derivatives >>	impeccability, impeccableness, impeccably	
13.	<b>imperturbable</b>	im pur TUR buh bul	marked by extreme calm, impassivity, assurance and steadiness
	Synonyms >>	composed, collected, cool, unruffled, nonchalant	Antonym >> frantic
	Before the accident he seemed imperturbable, but now he is becoming frantic.		
	Derivatives >>	imperturbability, imperturbableness, imperturbably, imperturbation, imperturbed	
14.	<b>malleable</b>	MAL ee uh bul	capable of being shaped, influenced, or altered; tractable
	Synonyms >>	plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile	Antonym >> unpliable
	Gold is a malleable metal.		
	Derivatives >>	malleability, malleabilization, malleableize, malleableness	
15.	<b>mortify</b>	MORE tuh fie	to humiliate, to wound pride, to experience shame
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to calm; to soothe
	It would simply mortify me to have someone say such shameful things about my family.		
	Derivatives >>	mortifyingly, mortifier, mortified, mortifiedly, mortification	
16.	<b>obdurate</b>	OB doo rit	extremely stubborn, unwilling to accept advice
	Synonyms >>	inflexible, inexorable, adamant	Antonym >> tractable
	She was obdurate in her refusal to listen to our concerns about her cocaine problem.		
	Derivatives >>	obdurately, obdurateness, obduration, obdure, obduracy	
17.	<b>platitude</b>	PLAT eh tood	trite remark, banal statement
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> profundity
	That politician can spout platitudes, but he has never passed a bill that has substance.		
	Derivatives >>	platitudinal, platitudinarian, platitudinize, platitudinous, platitudinously	
18.	<b>profligate</b>	PROF luh git	a wasteful person; extremely wasteful, given to licentiousness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> thrifty
	The profligate son wasted the family fortune on wine, women, and song.		
	Derivatives >>	profligacy, profligated, profligately, profligateness	
19.	<b>pugnacious</b>	pug NAY shus	looking for a fight, combative, belligerent
	Synonyms >>	bellicose, contentious, quarrelsome	Antonym >> peaceful
	There are many pugnacious punks at the high school that bully other students.		
	Derivatives >>	pugnaciously, pugnaciousness, pugnacity	
20.	<b>savory</b>	SAY vuh ree	appetizing
	Synonyms >>	palatable, toothsome	Antonym >> unappetizing
	My mother is known for her savory meals.		
	Derivatives >>	savor, savored, savorer, savorily, savoriness, savoringly, savorous, savorsome	
21.	<b>spurn</b>	SPURN	to reject or to refuse with hostility
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to embrace
	The woman had always viewed the man with disdain and would spurn his attempts at friendship forever.		
	Derivatives >>	spurner, spurned, spurning	
22.	<b>supercilious</b>	soo pur SIL ee us	haughty, vain and arrogant
	Synonyms >>	disdainful, high-handed, insolent, lordly	Antonym >> servile
	I do not like your arrogant and supercilious attitude toward poor people.		
	Derivatives >>	superciliously, superciliousness	
23.	<b>trite</b>	TRITE	overused, commonplace, hackneyed
	Synonyms >>	threadbare	Antonym >> unusual
	This essay is full of trite phrases; it needs a fresh approach, avoiding phrases so hackneyed and overused.		
	Derivatives >>	triter, tritest, tritely, triteness	
24.	<b>vociferous</b>	voe SIF ur us	clamorous; boisterous (suggests a vehement outcry)
	Synonyms >>	blatant, obstreperous, strident	Antonym >> quiet; subdued
	The rock crowd became vociferous in its anger when it was announced that the show was cancelled.		
	Derivatives >>	vociferator, vociferously, vociferousness	
25.	<b>vulgarity</b>	vul GAR eh tee	something offensive to good taste and refinement
	Synonyms >>	coarseness, grossness, obscenity, ribaldness	Antonym >> refinement
	She chose to ignore the vulgarity of his crude remark.		
	Derivatives >>	vulgar, vulgarian, vulgarism, vulgarization, vulgarize, vulgarizer	