

Lesson Seventeen

1. **rancor** (răng' kər) *noun* extreme hatred or ill will
Although he usually did not feel *rancor* toward a lawyer who opposed him, Whelan's double-dealing had him seething.
syn: animosity, antagonism, resentment *ant:* amity, sympathy

2. **remorse** (rĭ mōrs') *noun* deep regret for a sin or wrongdoing
He would have received a heavier sentence, but because of the *remorse* he had expressed, the judge let him off easier than had been expected.
syn: contrition, penitence *ant:* obduracy, impenitence

3. **renegade** (rĕn ĭ gād') *noun* one who deserts a cause and goes over to the other side; a traitor
The members of the old party called him a *renegade*; the members of his new party called him a patriot.
syn: turncoat, defector, traitor *ant:* loyalist

4. **retribution** (rĕt rə byōō' shən) *noun* a just or deserved punishment
As *retribution* for the vandalism, the boys had to spend the weekend picking up litter on the road.
syn: retaliation *ant:* clemency

5. **sanction** (săngk' shən) *noun/verb* permission, support; to give approval to
The teacher could not *sanction* the student's habit of copying other people's papers.
syn: approval; to authorize, to endorse *ant:* objection; to censure

6. **scourge** (skûrj) *noun* a person or thing which causes great trouble or misfortune; to inflict severe punishment or pain
Severe diseases have always been a *scourge* to mankind.
syn: afflict, torment, tribulation

7. **strident** (strĭd' nt) *adj.* harsh sounding
The woman's *strident* voice began to get on our nerves.
syn: loud, shrill *ant:* quiet, peaceful

8. **taciturn** (tăs' ĭ tûrn) *adj.* not fond of talking; usually silent
We were amazed when the *taciturn* young man signed up for public speaking.
syn: reticent, reserved *ant:* garrulous, loquacious, talkative

9. **temerity** (tə mĕr' ĭ tē) *noun* reckless boldness
We couldn't believe he had the *temerity* to speak back to the teacher.
syn: audacity, effrontery, indiscretion *ant:* caution, circumspection, discretion

10. **terse** (tûrs) *adj.* brief, to the point
The sheriff's *terse* command quickly brought the prisoner to his feet.
syn: concise, succinct

11. **uncanny** (ŭn kăn' ē) *adj.* weird, strange; mysterious; acute
The boy had an *uncanny* memory for minute details.
syn: unearthly
12. **unctuous** (ŭngk' chōō əs) *adj.* excessively polite; oily
The *unctuous* tone of the salesman's voice made the customers a little uneasy.
syn: suave, slippery
13. **verbose** (vər bōs') *adj.* using more words than are needed; wordy
As soon as I was cornered by my *verbose* cousin, I knew I would be late for my meeting.
syn: garrulous *ant:* terse, concise, succinct
14. **vindicate** (vĭn' dĭ kāt) *verb* to clear of guilt or blame
Even though he had been *vindicated* of murder, the local people still looked at him suspiciously.
syn: absolve *ant:* convict, blame
15. **vindictive** (vĭn dĭk' tĭv) *adj.* seeking revenge; bearing a grudge
There was no appeasing his *vindictive* nature once he felt that he had been wronged.
syn: vengeful, spiteful *ant:* forgiving

EXERCISE I — Word in Context

From the list of words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

temerity
rancor

taciturn
remorse

vindictive

- A. When they asked him to make his speech, he blushed. He was by nature a _____ man who viewed speech-making as something to be avoided. Yet, everyone said that his brave comments in taking on the rich factory owners showed great _____.
- B. His boss was a _____ man who sought to avenge both real and imagined slights. He was greatly feared because his _____ knew no bounds, and he never expressed any _____ for the terrible things he said and did.

From the list of words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

terse
strident

renegade
retribution

scourge
vindicate

- C. In that part of the country, it was not the Native Americans, but the _____ white settlers who were considered the _____. When these rascals were caught, _____ was swift and harsh.
- D. The candidate issued a low key, _____ statement in which he tried to _____ himself in the eyes of the voter; however, this statement only increased the _____ comments of his opponents.