

Lesson Two

1. **altercation** (ôl' tər kā' shən) *noun* a heated argument
As a result of the mounting tension, an *altercation* between the police and the residents broke out.
syn: controversy, quarrel, contention *ant:* amity, harmony, agreement

2. **ambivalent** (ăm bīv' ə lənt) *adj.* being uncertain; unable to decide between two opposing points of view
He felt *ambivalent* about his job; although he hated the pressure, he loved the challenge.
syn: indecisive *ant:* opinionated, decisive

3. **amicable** (ăm' ɪ kə bəl) *adj.* friendly; peaceable
After years of arguing, the two sides put down their weapons and came to an *amicable* agreement.
syn: agreeable; amiable *ant:* quarrelsome; warlike

4. **anathema** (ə năth' ə mə) *noun* a greatly disliked, hated person or thing; a curse, or a person cursed
Because they saw him as a traitor, his presence in town was an *anathema* to the townspeople.
syn: abomination; abhorrence *ant:* blessing

5. **apathy** (ăp' ə thē) *noun* lack of interest
Because of the *apathy* of its citizens, the town went from bad to worse.
syn: lethargy; unconcern; indifference *ant:* interest; zeal; fervor

6. **appease** (ə pēz') *verb* to make calm or quiet; to give in to the demands of
The small snack before dinner did nothing to *appease* his appetite.
syn: pacify, placate, allay *ant:* enrage, aggravate, defy

7. **arduous** (ăr' jōō əs) *adj.* difficult; requiring much effort; strenuous
Refinishing the old bookcase proved to be an *arduous* task, though the finished product was well worth it.
syn: strenuous, laborious *ant:* facile, easy, simple

8. **audacity** (ô dăś' ɪ tē) *noun* insolence; rude boldness
The student's *audacity* in talking back to the teacher earned him a detention.
syn: effrontery, presumption, impudence *ant:* decorum, propriety, timidity

9. **augment** (ôg mēnt') *verb* to enlarge; to increase in amount or intensity
I had to take a second job to *augment* my income.
syn: expand, enhance, increase *ant:* abate, shrivel, reduce

10. **austere** (ô stir') *adj.* stern, severe, plain
The sober, old judge was as *austere* in his manner as he was in his lifestyle and dress.
syn: abstemious, rigorous, ascetic *ant:* luxurious, affable, indulgent