

## Lesson Three

1. **avarice** (ăv' ə rīs) *noun* excessive greed; desire for wealth  
He became a doctor not to save lives but to appease his *avarice*.  
*syn:* greed *ant:* liberality; generosity
  
2. **avid** (ăv' ĭd) *adj.* eager; extremely interested  
He was such an *avid* moviegoer that the theater gave him a half-priced, lifetime pass.  
*syn:* voracious; keen *ant:* apathetic
  
3. **bacchanalian** (băk' ə' nāl' yən) *adj.* wild with drunkenness  
The student flunked out of college because of the *bacchanalian* life he had lived.
  
4. **balk** (bôk) *verb* to stop short and refuse to continue; to obstruct  
Although he desperately needed the money, he *balked* at the idea of working for less than minimum wage.  
*syn:* hesitate; frustrate; block *ant:* facilitate; abet
  
5. **banter** (băn' tər) *noun* teasing; good-natured joking  
As she sat at the table, Ruth enjoyed listening to the *banter* of her husband and his old college roommate.
  
6. **barrister** (băr' ĭ stər) *noun* lawyer  
In England, a lawyer or attorney who argues cases in court is called a *barrister*.
  
7. **bask** (băsk) *verb* to lie in or be exposed to warmth  
While in Florida on vacation, all she did was *bask* in the sun.
  
8. **bastion** (băs' chən) *noun* a strong defense; a fort  
During critical times in the history of the world, the United States has been called the *bastion* of democracy.
  
9. **bawdy** (bô' dē) *adj.* indecent; humorously obscene  
Because some people called it a *bawdy* show, the car manufacturer withdrew as a sponsor for the program.  
*syn:* risqué
  
10. **befuddle** (bĭ fūd' l) *verb* to confuse; to perplex  
Did he try to *befuddle* you with his fast talk?  
*syn:* bewilder; fluster *ant:* clarify