

## Lesson Thirteen

1. **inert** (ɪn ʊrt) *adj.* having no power to act or move; inactive  
The volcano, which had lain *inert* for centuries, suddenly exploded into violent activity.  
*syn:* dormant, passive, idle                      *ant:* mobile, dynamic, active
  
2. **inexorable** (ɪn ɛkˈsər ə bəl) *adj.* cannot be moved or influenced by persuasion or entreaty; unrelenting  
The king, once he made up his mind, was *inexorable*.  
*syn:* adamant, implacable, obdurate              *ant:* flexible, pliable
  
3. **inscrutable** (ɪn skrʊˈə bəl) *adj.* cannot be easily understood; mysterious  
I came home to find the most *inscrutable* phone message; now I have no idea who called, when, or why.  
*syn:* incomprehensible, enigmatic              *ant:* obvious, plain, evident
  
4. **insipid** (ɪn sɪpˈɪd) *adj.* without flavor; tasteless; dull; lifeless  
Some people find math exciting, but I find it *insipid*.  
*syn:* flat, vapid, unsavory                      *ant:* spicy, tempting, zestful, energetic
  
5. **intrepid** (ɪn trɛpˈɪd) *adj.* without fear; brave  
Because he was an *intrepid* warrior, he received his country's highest award.  
*syn:* dauntless, bold, fearless                      *ant:* cowardly, timid, cautious
  
6. **irascible** (ɪ ræsˈə bəl) *adj.* easily angered  
Because he was so *irascible*, few people liked him.  
*syn:* choleric, irritable, ill-tempered              *ant:* patient, mild, even-tempered
  
7. **jaundiced** (jɔnˈdɪst) *adj.* prejudiced, cynical  
After the years he spent as a hostage, he had a somewhat *jaundiced* view of the Middle East countries.  
*syn:* skeptical                                      *ant:* believing, trusting
  
8. **jaunty** (jɔnˈtɛ) *adj.* fashionable, stylish; carefree  
When my grandfather was young, he considered knickers and knee socks a *jaunty* outfit.  
*syn:* sprightly                                      *ant:* somber, staid
  
9. **jettison** (dʒɛtˈɪ sən) *verb* to throw goods overboard  
Heavy suitcases and other personal belongings were quickly *jettisoned* from the damaged plane.  
*syn:* discard
  
10. **jingoism** (dʒɪŋˈɡoʊ ɪz əm) *noun* extreme patriotism; favoring an aggressive, warlike foreign policy  
Because of his saber-rattling and *jingoism*, he lost the support of the moderate elements.

11. **jocose** (jō kōs') *adj.* joking, humorous  
He had a *jocose* manner that his bosses did not appreciate.  
*syn:* witty, funny, playful                      *ant:* serious, morose
12. **juggernaut** (jüg' ər nôt) *noun* a terrible destructive or irresistible force  
The Nazi *juggernaut* swept through Belgium and into France.
13. **latent** (lāt' nt) *adj.* present, but not active; hidden  
After he retired, Johnson took up painting and found that he had *latent* artistic talents.  
*syn:* dormant, inert, potential, quiescent    *ant:* operative, manifest, distinct
14. **laudable** (lô' də bəl) *adj.* worthy of praise; commendable  
His heroic actions in saving the child from the burning building were *laudable*.  
*syn:* honorable, commendable, admirable    *ant:* anathema, abhorrent, base
15. **lethargy** (lēth' ər jē) *noun* lack of energy; drowsiness, disinterest  
His *lethargy* was caused by a severe bout of depression.  
*syn:* torpor, apathy, lassitude                      *ant:* vigor, vitality, liveliness

### EXERCISE I — Words in Context

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

<b>irascible</b>	<b>jaunty</b>	<b>laudable</b>
<b>latent</b>	<b>lethargy</b>	<b>inert</b>

- A. Most people in the town admired him. In his sleek sports car with his fashionable, designer clothes, he presented a carefree, \_\_\_\_\_ image. Yet, those who knew him well said he had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ temper which could erupt in a tirade of bitter words.
- B. Although usually very energetic, sometimes Janet would mope around the house, almost in a state of \_\_\_\_\_. On these days, she could be quite \_\_\_\_\_ and would snap at anyone who spoke to her. But her many generous gifts to the community and other \_\_\_\_\_ acts of kindness were reason enough for most of us who knew her to forgive these lapses.

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

<b>jingoism</b>	<b>jaundiced</b>	<b>inscrutable</b>
<b>jocose</b>	<b>insipid</b>	<b>intrepid</b>

- C. Although he had proven himself to be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ warrior, the general's \_\_\_\_\_ speeches generally bored his audiences. This night, however, his audience of ultra-right nationalists responded enthusiastically to his \_\_\_\_\_ and saber rattling.
- D. While her smile was certainly beautiful, there was also an air of mystery about it which gave her a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ look. For these reasons some of the other women regarded her with a somewhat \_\_\_\_\_ eye. But even in the face of their rude comments, she never lost her \_\_\_\_\_ manner and positive attitude.