

Lesson Fifteen

1. **noxious** (nɒk' shəs) *adj.* harmful to the health
 There was a *noxious*, overpowering smell in the dimly lit room.
syn: injurious, unwholesome *ant:* harmless, wholesome

2. **nuance** (nūō' əns') *noun* a delicate variation in tone, color, meaning, expression
 There were *nuances* in these later speeches that only the sharpest of listeners picked up on.

3. **obese** (ō bēs') *adj.* extremely fat
 Though people don't usually recognize it, Santa Claus is actually *obese*.
syn: stout, corpulent, rotund *ant:* emaciated, slender, gaunt

4. **obstreperous** (ɒb strəp' ər əs) *adj.* boisterous; unruly
 The *obstreperous* mob was finally subdued with an icy blast from the fire hose.
syn: noisy; uncontrolled *ant:* calm; obedient

5. **odium** (ō' dē əm) *noun* hatred; the state of being hated
 The teacher regarded the loudmouth student with *odium*.
syn: anathema, abhorrence *ant:* love, adoration

6. **officious** (ə fɪsh' əs) *adj.* offering unnecessary and unwanted advice or service
 The butler's *officious* treatment of the other servants caused many to complain to the king.
syn: meddlesome, interfering *ant:* retiring, reticent

7. **ominous** (ɒm' ə nəs) *adj.* threatening; predicting evil
 We went on our picnic despite the *ominous* rain clouds.
syn: foreboding, sinister *ant:* nonthreatening, comforting

8. **omniscient** (ɒm nɪsh' ənt) *adj.* having unlimited knowledge; knowing everything
 The narrator who is able to tell the reader what his characters are thinking or what is happening in two places at one time is called an *omniscient* narrator.
syn: all-knowing

9. **ostensible** (ɒ stɛn' sə bəl) *adj.* apparent; pretended; professed
 The *ostensible* reason for his actions were not his real reasons.
syn: apparent, probable, evident

10. **ostracize** (ɒs' trə-siz) *verb* to banish; to shut out from a group or society by common consent
 When Tom married someone of a different religion, the tight little community *ostracized* him.
syn: banish, exile, blacklist *ant:* welcome, accept

11. **pandemonium** (pān də mō' nē əm) *noun* a wild disorder, noise or confusion
 With the teacher gone, the climate of the room quickly changed from quiet talking to *pandemonium*.
syn: chaos, tumult, din *ant:* order, tranquility
12. **parsimonious** (pār sə mō' nē əs) *adj.* too economical; stingy
 Ebenezer Scrooge was a *parsimonious* old man.
syn: frugal, thrifty, cheap *ant:* extravagant, lavish
13. **penitent** (pĕn' ĭ tĕnt) *adj.* expressing sorrow for having sinned or done wrong
 Because of the boy's *penitent* expression, the judge was easier on him than he usually was.
syn: sorry or ashamed; remorseful *ant:* unashamed
14. **pernicious** (pər nĭsh' əs) *adj.* causing injury; evil or wicked
 While doctors today say that running is beneficial, years ago some people thought that running had a *pernicious* effect on the heart.
syn: detrimental, destructive *ant:* wholesome, beneficial
15. **pertinent** (pŭr' tn ənt) *adj.* having to do with what is being considered
 He didn't mind interruptions as long as what was said was *pertinent* to the topic at hand.
syn: relevant, appropriate *ant:* unrelated

EXERCISE I — Words in Context

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

ostracize
nuance

obstreperous
pertinent

pandemonium

- A. Because of acts of vandalism and other _____ behavior, the club members felt it necessary to _____ Carl from their group. They were tired of the _____ caused by his capricious acts. Collecting all the _____ information they could find, they brought this information before the club's disciplinary board.

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

omniscient
nuance

obese
odium

parsimonious
pernicious

ominous

- B. Although Uncle Bob now had plenty of money, the _____ ways of his earlier days still had a strong hold on him; thus spending a dollar was never a painless task for him. His nephew, hoping to discredit his uncle, started _____ rumors, not so much by what he said directly, but more so in the _____ of his comments.
- C. The sound of thunder and the black clouds to the north were _____ signs, but we decided to go camping anyway. Most of us were not too keen on the idea but our scout leader, who considered himself _____, said there was no chance of bad weather, so we went. However, when it began to pour rain and he slipped and injured his leg, we had to carry him down the trail. From that moment, we regarded this _____, 250-pound person with _____.