

Lesson Seven

1. **cynical** (sɪn' ɪ kəl) *adj.* inclined to distrust or deny the goodness or sincerity of human motive
When you are *cynical* others doubt your motives.
syn: distrustful, skeptical, scornful *ant:* idealistic, optimistic

2. **decorum** (dɪ kôr' əm) *noun* conformity to accepted standards of conduct; proper behavior
The usually belligerent agnostic acted with surprising *decorum* during the church service.
syn: propriety, dignity, etiquette *ant:* impropriety, inappropriateness

3. **demagogue** (dɛm' ə gôg') *noun* a leader who appeals to the emotions and prejudices of people, especially to advance his own power
Once the leader of the revolt defeated the dictator, he then became a *demagogue*.
syn: agitator, ringleader, rabble-rouser

4. **demure** (dɪ myŏr') *adj.* quiet and modest
Although she wanted to leave her abusive husband, she still tried to be *demure* while he was present.
syn: modest, decorous, reserved *ant:* audacious, conceited, blunt

5. **deprecate** (dɛp' rɪ kāt) *verb* to express disapproval of; to depreciate one's effort
Because the others *deprecated* his earlier ideas, he offered no new ones.
syn: belittle, disparage *ant:* approve, commend, praise

6. **destitute** (dɛs' tɪ tōt') *adj.* extremely poor; lacking necessities like food and shelter
Since they had no insurance, the fire which completely destroyed their home left them *destitute*.
syn: indigent, impoverished, penniless *ant:* opulent, affluent

7. **diffident** (dɪf' ɪ dɛnt) *adj.* lacking in self-confidence; shy
After hearing of the man's accomplishments, it was especially hard to understand his *diffident* attitude.
syn: timid, shy, modest *ant:* arrogant, aggressive, forward

8. **dilemma** (dɪ lɛm' ə) *noun* a difficult choice; especially a choice between two equally undesirable alternatives
Whether I should repair my old car or purchase a new one was a real *dilemma*.
syn: quandary, plight, predicament

9. **dilettante** (dɪl' ɪ tɛnt') *noun* one who studies an art or science for mere amusement
Though just a *dilettante*, he practiced his piano with as much diligence as a concert pianist.
syn: amateur, trifler, dabbler *ant:* expert, professional, connoisseur

10. **disparity** (dɪ spər' ɪ tē) *noun* inequality; difference
He was forty and she twenty, but their marriage was very happy despite the *disparity* in their ages.
syn: disproportion, dissimilarity *ant:* parity, likeness, equality