Lesson One

1. **abate** (ə bāt´) *verb* to lessen in violence or intensity
When the winds *abated*, the helicopter was able to land.
syn: subside, decrease *ant:* intensify, increase

2. **abet** (ə bĕt´) *verb* to assist or encourage, especially in wrongdoing
For hiding the thief in his basement, he was charged with aiding and *abetting* a criminal.
syn: encourage, promote, incite *ant:* impede, dissuade, deter

3. **abhor** (ăb hôr´) *verb* to detest, loathe, hate strongly
The father warned his children to *abhor* lying.
syn: despise, abominate *ant:* love, esteem

4. **acquit** (ə kwĭt´) *verb* to find not guilty of a fault or crime
The jury *acquitted* the man, and he was free to go.
syn: vindicate, absolve, exonerate *ant:* convict, incriminate, condemn

5. **acrimony** (ă´ krə mō´ nē) *noun* harsh temper or bitter feeling
Because of his *acrimony*, the old man found himself lonely and friendless.
syn: resentment, rancor, unkindness *ant:* amiability, tenderness, kindness

6. **adamant** (ăd´ ə mănt´) *adj.* unyielding; firm in opinion
Despite the protests of the entire city council, the mayor remained *adamant*.
syn: stubborn *ant:* amenable, flexible

7. **adulation** (ăj´ ōō lā´ shən) *noun* excessive praise or admiration
She despised the *adulation* heaped on rock stars by young fans.
syn: flattery, adoration *ant:* derision, mockery

8. **affable** (ăf´ ə bel) *adj.* friendly; courteous; agreeable in manner; easy to talk to
The *affable* old man never wanted for visitors.
syn: amiable, good-natured *ant:* disagreeable, irritable, bad-tempered

9. **agnostic** (ăg nŏs´ tĭk) *noun* one who believes that the existence of God is unknown and unknowable
Although he would not say there was no God, he did not attend church because he was an *agnostic*.
syn: skeptic; one with a critical or doubting attitude *ant:* believer

10. **agrarian** (ə grâr´ ē ən) *adj.* having to do with farms, farmers, or the use of land
Because New Jersey is mostly *v*, it is called "The Garden State."
syn: agricultural; rural; pastoral *ant:* urban