

Lesson Eighteen

1. **anarchy** (ăn' ār kē) *noun* the absence of law and government; chaos
Soon after Macbeth killed Duncan, the rightful king, and took power himself, Scotland descended into *anarchy*.
2. **boycott** (boi' kät) *verb* to avoid dealing with a company as a protest against it in order to make it alter policies
The Animal Rights group *boycotted* the one manufacturer in the state that continued to test cosmetics on rabbits.
3. **chattel** (chăt' l) *noun* an item of tangible property that is moveable; a slave
In the Dred Scott case, the Supreme Court ruled that a slave was only property, not a person, and could be considered *chattel*.
4. **conscription** (kän skrip' shən) *noun* compulsory service in the military of a country
To avoid the horrors of *conscription* into the Czar's army, my grandfather escaped from Russia and emigrated to the United States.
syn: draft
5. **filibuster** (fil' ə bəs tər) *noun* a delaying tactic used to prevent voting on legislation occurring
verb to prevent action on a bill or other form of legislation by engaging in lengthy debate or obstruction
One senator can prevent the Senate from acting on a bill if he or she begins a *filibuster* or, in some cases, simply by threatening to begin one.
6. **habeas corpus** (hā' bē əs kōr' pəs) *noun* a law stating that a person must be brought before a court; Latin for "you should have the body"
Since Josh could not locate the witness he needed to prove his innocence, he requested that the court issue a *habeas corpus* order for her to appear.
7. **laissez faire** (lə' zā fār) *noun* a doctrine that opposes all but minimal governmental interference in private industry; French for "to let (people) do (as they please)"
To modern economists, there must be a middle ground between complete *laissez faire* and an economic system in which all aspects of industry are controlled.
8. **libertarian** (līb ər tār' ē ən) *noun* a belief or one who believes in less government, near total freedom, and fewer rules
The *Libertarian* Party's candidate in one state won the election and is starting a new policy regarding the income tax; it will be abolished.

9. **multiculturalism** (məl tē kəltch' ərl ɪz əm) *noun* a combining of various and different cultures into one
New York in the early 1900s could not be considered the city of *multiculturalism* that it is today, since, while there were many culturally distinct neighborhoods, they rarely interacted with one another.
10. **neutrality** (nōō trāl' ɪ tē) *noun* the quality of being objective; not taking sides, especially in war
Although Miranda tried to have an air of *neutrality* about her, we knew that she definitely preferred one diamond ring to the other.
11. **noblesse oblige** (nō blēs' ō blēzh') *noun* the moral obligation of the rich to act with honor, generosity, and benevolence; French for "nobility obliges"
All the monarch's children believed in the idea of *noblesse oblige*, but none of them understood that a fair society puts many other demands on wealth and power.
12. **purge** (pəɹj) *noun* a forced evacuation and elimination of a people, especially opponents of the government, from an area
The military government attempted a *purge* of farmers from the villages around the river delta once gold deposits were discovered there.
syn: resettle
13. **Renaissance** (rēn' ə zōns) *noun* the period in European history between 1400 and 1600 approximately, which featured many artistic and intellectual changes; a rebirth
Once the Inquisition had ended, people affected by its horrors expected a *renaissance* of religious tolerance, but, unfortunately, complete freedom of worship did not materialize.
14. **totalitarian** (tō tāl ɪ tār' ē ən) *adj.* relating to a government that exercises absolute control over its citizens
The *totalitarian* regime focused all its funds on preserving its rule, and it completely ignored the needs of the country's people, who were suffering from a devastating famine.
syn: dictatorial *ant:* democratic
15. **writ** (rɪt) *noun* a written order; a written document issued by a court
The victim's family protested when the governor issued a *writ*, which commuted the prisoner's death sentence and changed it to life imprisonment.