

## Lesson Ten

1. **circuitous** (sər kyōō' ĭ tās) *adjective* indirect, roundabout  
 The irritated motorists were forced to take a *circuitous* route around the washed-out bridge, which took an extra hour.  
*syn: circular* *ant: direct*
  
2. **circumlocution** (sûr' kəm lō kyōō' shən) *noun* an unnecessarily wordy or evasive form of expression  
 Surprised by an unforeseen and weighty question, the politician's speech degenerated into empty phrases and *circumlocution*.  
*syn: roundabout*
  
3. **deleterious** (děl' ĭ tîr' ē əs) *adjective* having a harmful effect; injurious.  
 Cigarette smoking is *deleterious* to your health; it causes lung cancer, heart disease, and constricted blood vessels.  
*syn: destructive, pernicious* *ant: beneficial*
  
4. **extenuating** (ĭk stĕn' yōō ā' tĭng) *adjective* lessening the seriousness of  
 Kevin claimed that *extenuating* circumstances prevented his timely appearance in court; however, the judge still held him in contempt of court.  
*syn: justifying*
  
5. **inchoate** (ĭn kō' ĭt) *adjective* unformed or undeveloped  
 The plan could not possibly go into effect at this time as it is still in an *inchoate* stage.  
*syn: incomplete, incipient*
  
6. **largesse** (lär zhĕs') *noun* generosity  
 The new arts center was a result of its wealthy patron's *largesse*.  
*ant: stinginess*
  
7. **luminous** (lōō' mə nəs) *adjective* bright; full of light  
 The cathedral's *luminous* stained-glass windows shone above the heads of the worshippers.  
*syn: brilliant* *ant: dull, dark*
  
8. **majordomo** (mā' jər dō' mō) *noun* follower; butler  
 The king instructed his most faithful *majordomo* to organize the festivities for the prince's wedding.
  
9. **perambulate** (pə rām' byə lāt') *verb* to walk about, stroll  
 One older woman could not walk on her own even though she had *perambulated* for years before she got sick.

10. **prevaricate** (prī văr' ĭ kāt') *verb* to lie; mislead  
The little boy didn't understand the difference between *prevaricating* and being honest.  
*syn: evade*
11. **propriety** (prə prɔ̃' ĭ tē) *noun* appropriateness  
No one in power questioned the *propriety* of William's research topic of government corruption.  
*syn: decency, correctness*
12. **timorous** (tīm' ə r əs) *adjective* timid  
The puppy was so small and *timorous* that all of its siblings bullied it.  
*syn: cowardly; shy* *ant: outgoing*
13. **tremulous** (trēm' yə ləs) *adjective* timid; fearful  
In a *tremulous* voice he asked her to marry him; he was very afraid of rejection, though.  
*ant: brave*
14. **untenable** (ŭn tēn' ə bəl) *adjective* incapable of being defended  
Finding their position *untenable*, the Marines at the foot of the hill retreated.
15. **veneer** (və nīr') *noun* any thin, attractive surface layer  
Although he was an innately evil person, he had an innocent *veneer* that misled everyone.

### Exercise I — Words in Context

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

extenuating      majordomo      untenable      propriety      tremulous

- A. Mrs. Garland, the elderly matron serving as \_\_\_\_\_ in the mansion, questioned, in her own mind, the \_\_\_\_\_ of allowing the unkempt visitor to sit at the table. "Madam," he said in a \_\_\_\_\_ voice, "I have news of a personal nature to convey, and there are \_\_\_\_\_ reasons for my appearance. I am a spy, recently discovered, and my position is now \_\_\_\_\_ without help from your employer."

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

largesse      perambulate      circumlocution      prevarication      timorously

- B. While thrilled at her recovered ability to \_\_\_\_\_, even on crutches, Alice \_\_\_\_\_ told the assembled group how much much more she was gratified by the \_\_\_\_\_ extended to her by her coworkers.
- C. Caught up in his own \_\_\_\_\_, no amount of \_\_\_\_\_ could conceal Bill's guilt.