

Lesson Eleven

1. **bulwark** (bŭŭl' wŕk) *noun* a wall or embankment for defense
The town's residents created a *bulwark* of sandbags to protect them from the rising tide.
syn: fortification

2. **crescendo** (krŕ shŕn' dŏ) *noun* a steady increase in intensity or force
The tension at the 1962 UN conference rose to a *crescendo* after the capture of a U.S. spy.

3. **disingenuous** (dĭs' n jŕn' yŏŏ əs) *adjective* crafty, not straightforward
The *disingenuous* used-car salesman emphasized the importance of the car's unnecessary options.
ant: candor

4. **dogged** (dŏ' gĭd) *adjective* unrelenting, persistent
The *dogged* bounty hunters followed their prey through forests, fields, and rivers.
syn: unyielding *ant: giving up*

5. **etymology** (ĕt' ə mŏl' ə jĕ) *noun* the study of word origin and change
If you trace the *etymology* for the word *obscene*, you will find that it was once a Greek term for "out of sight."

6. **extant** (ĕk' stŕnt) *adjective* in existence
Despite the adverse effects of DDT on the American bald eagle population, the species is still *extant*.
ant: extinct

7. **impresario** (ĭm' prĭ sŕr' ĕ ŏ') *noun* producer of entertainment; manager
The *impresario* of the opera house was overjoyed when he finally managed to book a performance by a world-renowned soprano.

8. **intransigent** (ĭn trŕn' sŕ jŕnt) *adjective* refusing to moderate a position; uncompromising
NRA members are *intransigent* that their right to buy guns is guaranteed by the Constitution.
syn: adamant *ant: alterable*

9. **lachrymose** (lŕk' rŕ mŏs') *adjective* inclined to shed many tears; mournful
Although not normally *lachrymose*, she could not hold back her tears.
syn: tearful *ant: joyous*

10. **malaise** (mŕ lŕz') *noun* discomfort; unease
His *malaise* and depression continued even after the disease was cured.

11. **pallid** (pŕl' ĭd) *adjective* pale, dull
The formerly dark-complected man had grown *pallid* while in the hospital.
syn: wan

12. **palpable** (pāl' pə bəl) *adjective* able to be handled or touched; obvious
The unexpected arrival of street gangs brought a *palpable* chill into the community.
syn: plain, manifest *ant: obscure*
13. **pundit** (pŭn' dīt) *noun* a critic
All the media *pundits* predicted an upset victory in the race for governor.
syn: authority
14. **requisite** (rĕk' wĭ zīt) *adjective* required; important
Glenn was audited by the IRS after failing to report a *requisite* detail on his tax return.
syn: needed *ant: luxury; dispensable*
15. **waive** (wāv) *verb* not enforce a rule; set aside
They decided to *waive* the fine because of the accused's obvious poverty.
syn: renounce; remit *ant: demand*

Exercise I— Words in Context

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

lachrymose impresario malaise palpable crescendo

- A. To heighten the orchestral _____, the composer preceded it with a long lull in the music. The music brought tears to their eyes of the _____ in the audience.
- B. A _____ tension pervaded the hall before the concert began and grew as the _____ slowly dimmed the lights.
- C. Realizing rescue was not imminent, the survivors suffered both a great deal of _____ and much angst.

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

pallid pundit bulwark dogged etymology

- D. When practicing for English composition tests, a _____ study of _____ provides great help. Through careful use, you will avoid _____, nondescript words. A good vocabulary provides you with a _____ against errors.
- E. One sports _____ always picks my favorite team to finish last.