

## Lesson Twelve

1. **assiduous** (ə sĭj' ōō əs) *adjective* diligent, persistent  
 Marie Curie's *assiduous* research on radioactivity was rewarded when she received the Nobel Prize in 1903.  
*syn: tireless* *ant: inconstant, lazy*
  
2. **condescend** (kŏn' dĭ sĕnd') *verb* to deal with in a superior way  
 The overbearing conductor *condescended* to speak to the musicians; usually he let his baton do the talking.  
*syn: deign*
  
3. **epiphany** (ĭ pĭf' ə nĕ) *noun* a revelation; sudden knowledge  
 While praying in church, John had an *epiphany*; he suddenly decided to dedicate the rest of his life to his religion.
  
4. **exhilaration** (ĭg zĭl' ə rā' shən) *noun* elation, thrill  
 I was filled with a sense of *exhilaration* after successfully completing the difficult ski jump.  
*syn: joyousness* *ant: boredom*
  
5. **panacea** (pän' ə sĕ' ə) *noun* cure-all  
 Many antibiotics are less effective nowadays; they are not the *panacea* they were once believed to be.  
*syn: remedy*
  
6. **physiognomy** (fĭz' ē ōg' nə mĕ) *noun* facial features  
 Plastic surgery did a marvelous job in repairing the victim's *physiognomy*.  
*syn: outward appearance*
  
7. **polyphonic** (pŏl' ē fŏn' ĭk) *adjective* many sounds together  
 The *polyphonic* music of the nineteenth century gradually became more minimalistic in the twentieth.
  
8. **propensity** (prə pĕn' sĭ tĕ) *noun* tendency  
 Sheila's *propensity* for laughing loudly and inappropriately embarrassed her in the library.  
*syn: bent, proclivity*
  
9. **propinquity** (prə pĭng' kwĭ tĕ) *noun* nearness; proximity  
 His *propinquity* to both murders made Tom a suspect.  
*ant: distance*
  
10. **rescind** (rĭ sĭnd') *verb* to repeal; void  
 Congress was forced to *rescind* the law after the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional.  
*syn: nullify, countermand* *ant: enforce*

11. **revel** (rĕv' əl) *verb* to enjoy; take pleasure in  
The home team *reveled* in the glory of winning the championship.  
*syn: carouse, frolic*
12. **rhapsodize** (răp' sə dŏz) *verb* to express oneself enthusiastically  
She was ecstatic about her engagement and *rhapsodized* constantly to her irritated co-workers.
13. **umbrage** (ŭm' brĭj) *noun* offense; resentment  
Carol took *umbrage* at my suggestion that she didn't understand the problem.  
*syn: grudge, pique*
14. **voluble** (vŏl' yə bəl) *adjective* talkative  
The *voluble* young actor excelled in improvisations in her drama class.  
*syn: loquacious* *ant: taciturn*
15. **wizened** (wĭz' ənd) *adjective* shriveled or dried up; withered  
When the *wizened* man began to dance beautifully, no one could tell he was eighty years old.  
*syn: wrinkled* *ant: smooth*

### Exercise I— Words in Context

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

**epiphany      exhilaration      reveled      polyphonic      propinquity**

- A. Carol's \_\_\_\_\_ with the beautiful day quickly diminished when she spotted the poison ivy bush. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ of poison ivy made Carol itch.
- B. While modern music is not as \_\_\_\_\_ as older works, Joseph still \_\_\_\_\_ in the older sound and, at times, even experienced a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of sorts.

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

**assiduous      rhapsodize      umbrage      condescend      wizened**

- C. Robinson, an ancient, \_\_\_\_\_ man, had been parsimonious all his life. He watched his bank balance with \_\_\_\_\_ care. Whenever his grandson would \_\_\_\_\_ about the joys of owning a brand-new car, Robinson would take \_\_\_\_\_ at the remarks. The grandson, on the other hand, would \_\_\_\_\_ to listen patiently to the elder's criticism.