

Lesson Fourteen

1. **artisan** (är' tĭ zən) *noun* skilled manual worker; craftsman
Navaho *artisans* are known for their beautifully crafted blankets and turquoise jewelry.

2. **boondoggle** (böön' dög' əl) *noun* unnecessary, wasteful work
The inexperienced secretary's new filing system turned out to be a *boondoggle* after no one could find important papers.
ant: windfall

3. **indiscernible** (in' dĭ sŭr' nə bəl) *adjective* imperceptible; not able to be seen
I assured him that the stain on his shirt was *indiscernible* in the dim light.
syn: indistinguishable *ant: visible*

4. **opprobrium** (ə prō' brē əm) *noun* disgrace, infamy
Veterans returning from war should be greeted with consideration and respect, not *opprobrium*.
syn: reproach *ant: praise*

5. **phlegmatic** (flĕg măt' ĭk) *adjective* unemotional
His *phlegmatic* personality prevented him from crying at the horrible news.
syn: apathetic; sluggish; placid *ant: excited*

6. **potentate** (pōt' n tāt') *noun* monarch
The *potentates* of many countries are despised and feared by their subjects.
syn: sovereign *ant: subject*

7. **protégé** (prō' tə zhā') *noun* a person under the guidance or training of another
It was now time for the painter's *protégé* to start an artistic career of his own.
syn: apprentice *ant: mentor*

8. **reciprocate** (rĭ sĭp' rə kāt') *verb* to give in response to something received
The worried child was reassured that Santa would *reciprocate* good behavior.
ant: take away

9. **repugnant** (rĭ pŭg' nənt) *adjective* offensive; repulsive
Racist remarks are a *repugnant* indication of narrow-mindedness and bigotry.
syn: aversion

10. **schism** (sĭz' əm) *noun* separation; discord
The argument over how to spend campaign funds led to a *schism* between party members.
syn: division, fissure *ant: attraction*

11. **somnambulism** (sŏm năm' byə lĭz' əm) *noun* sleepwalking
When a *somnambulist* awakens, he or she has no memory of the previous night's events.
12. **supine** (sŏō pə' n) *adjective* lying on one's back
The victim lay *supine* on the curb, unconscious.
syn: horizontal *ant: upright*
13. **tenable** (tĕn' ə bəl) *adjective* defensible
The only *tenable* position he could take in the debate was to oppose the proposition.
14. **virulent** (vĭr' yə lənt) *adjective* extremely infectious; malignant
Malaria is still, even in these modern times, a *virulent* disease.
syn: venomous *ant: harmless*
15. **vituperative** (vĭtū' pə rə tĭv) *adjective* fault-finding; verbal abuse
Vituperative words are unacceptable in a discussion since they will never bring about the desired results.
syn: abusive *ant: praiseworthy, commendable*

Exercise I — Words in Context

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

vituperative **protégé** **somnambulism** **potentate** **repugnant**

- A. _____ is caused by a brain disorder.
- B. The rich _____ was outraged that someone would steal the crown, and he believed it was his young _____ who did it. "Everyone must pay," he exclaimed in a most _____ way, "until someone takes responsibility for this _____ deed!"

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

supine **phlegmatic** **tenable** **virulent** **reciprocated**

- C. The entire village had been decimated by a _____ disease. While weary survivors lay _____ on the ground, volunteers spent time and their own money teaching them, without any thought of ever getting _____ for their sacrifices.
- D. When our football team lost 35-0 and our number one ranking was no longer _____, our coach, normally a _____ person, broke down and cried.