

## Lesson Fifteen

1. **anthropocentrism** (ən thrə pə sɛn' trɪsm') *noun* viewing the world in terms of human values and experience  
*Anthropocentrism* has led to great indifference regarding the destruction of the rain forests.  
*ant: universalism*
  
2. **appellation** (əp ə lā' shən) *noun* name or title  
The medical student was overjoyed to receive the *appellation* of "Dr." after her graduation.
  
3. **autonomy** (ô tɔ̃n' ə mē) *noun* independence  
After receiving his driver's license, John pleaded with his parents for greater *autonomy* in making decisions about his life.  
*syn: self-governing*
  
4. **coagulation** (kō äg' yə lā' shən) *noun* thickening of a liquid  
The *coagulation* process from lava to rock formed much of the Hawaiian island chain.  
*syn: congeal, blend*
  
5. **jurisprudence** (jɔ̃dr' ɪs prōd' ns) *noun* related to law  
The reporter referred to a law professor at the local university for an expert opinion on a question of *jurisprudence*.
  
6. **malevolent** (mə lēv' ə lənt) *adjective* evil; malicious  
The *malevolent* stare of the vicious dog forced the postman to retreat.  
*ant: benevolent*
  
7. **misanthrope** (mɪs' ən thrōp') *noun* one who hates or mistrusts humankind  
Dr. Jekyll was transformed from a kind, benevolent physician to the evil *misanthrope* Mr. Hyde.  
*ant: samaritan*
  
8. **prognosticate** (präg nās' tə kāt') *verb* predict  
It is often difficult to accurately *prognosticate* the track of a hurricane.  
*syn: foresee, foretell*
  
9. **prominence** (prɔ̃m' ə nəns) *noun* importance  
The presidential scandal quickly faded from *prominence* after only one week.  
*syn: manifest, principal* *ant: inconspicuous*
  
10. **prosaic** (prō zā' ɪk) *adjective* straightforward; uninteresting  
After missing my curfew, I had to sit through yet another boring, *prosaic* speech on family rules.  
*syn: vapid, humdrum* *ant: animated, spirited*

11. **puissance** (pwē' səns) *noun* power; might  
An opponent's *puissance*, whether in tennis or in a war, cannot be overestimated.  
*syn: strength* *ant: weakness*
12. **satiate** (sā' shē āt') *verb* to fill completely; to satisfy  
His greed was so great no amount of wealth would *satiate* it.
13. **scion** (sɔ̄ən) *noun* descendant; heir  
The wealthy industrialist's *scions* couldn't manage the business after his death and quickly lost a fortune.  
*syn: offspring* *ant: predecessor, ancestor*
14. **supercilious** (sōō' pər sīl' ē əs) *adjective* contemptuous; haughty  
The millionaire felt superior to his aged butler and treated him in a *supercilious* manner.  
*syn: disdainful, arrogant* *ant: respectful*
15. **utilitarian** (yū tī lə tēr' ē ən) *adjective* useful  
It's difficult to deal without a car; a VCR, however, is not nearly so *utilitarian* to many people.  
*syn: practical, functional* *ant: useless*

### Exercise I — Words in Context

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

**satiate**      **misanthrope**      **puissance**      **supercilious**      **malevolent**

- A. While he may, or may not, have been a \_\_\_\_\_, he certainly had a \_\_\_\_\_ nature that relished the pain of others. No amount of cruelty and suffering could \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- B. Although Tom wrestled with great skill and \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_ attitude offended and irritated many of his opponents.

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

**prognosticate**      **prominence**      **scion**      **prosaic**      **utilitarian**

- C. Every prediction the psychic published came true, and her \_\_\_\_\_ grew throughout the world. One sultan wanted her to \_\_\_\_\_ on the weather for his parched country, but she claimed the job was too \_\_\_\_\_ for her talents.
- D. While the male \_\_\_\_\_ was taught business skills, the females were not taught any \_\_\_\_\_ skills for coping in an unfriendly world.