

## Lesson Three

1. **abstemious** (ăb stē' mē əs) *adjective* eating and drinking moderately  
John's doctor suggested he lead a more *abstemious* lifestyle after years of indulging in gourmet food.  
*syn: temperate* *ant: gluttonous*
  
2. **archaic** (ăr kā' ĭk) *adjective* no longer current or applicable; antiquated  
Her father's *archaic* ideas about curfews often frustrated Jen when she wanted to stay out late.  
*syn: old fashioned* *ant: in vogue*
  
3. **dulcet** (dūl' sĭt) *adjective* melodious, pleasant to hear  
The opera singer's *dulcet* voice earned her a prominent place in the upcoming production.  
*syn: sweet-sounding* *ant: cacophonous*
  
4. **expurgate** (ĕk' spər gāt') *verb* to remove objectionable words from  
During the early part of the twentieth century, censors felt it was necessary to *expurgate* words from novels because of supposed obscenities.  
*syn: expunge*
  
5. **idyllic** (ĭdĭl' ĭk) *adjective* carefree, simple; nearly perfect  
Our summer picnic in the country was *idyllic* until a sudden storm ruined the day.
  
6. **iniquity** (ĭ nĭk' wĭ tē) *noun* sin; a wicked or evil act  
He heartily repented his *iniquity* when he faced a lifelong prison sentence.  
*syn: crime*
  
7. **lithe** (lĭth) *adjective* supple; graceful in motion  
The gymnast's *lithe* movements made her difficult routine look easy.  
*syn: nimble* *ant: stiff, awkward*
  
8. **patronizing** (pā' trə nɔ' ĭng) *adj.* to treat in a condescending manner, talk down to  
Despite his *patronizing* treatment of his employees, the foreman was still well liked.
  
9. **pellucid** (pə lōō' sĭd) *adjective* transparent; clear  
In order to make the thesis more *pellucid*, I rewrote the confusing paragraph.  
*ant: obscure, opaque*
  
10. **perspicacious** (pŭr' spĭ kā' shəs) *adjective* keen, mentally sharp  
One *perspicacious* comment after another by an expert at blackjack still could not help me win at the casino.  
*syn: shrewd, astute* *ant: dull*

11. **relegate** (rĕl' ĭ gāt') *verb* to assign  
Slaves were *relegated* to the worst possible housing and were often abused.  
*syn: consign, commit*
12. **scapegoat** (skāp' gōt') *noun* one who bears the blame for an offense  
Since he was often absent, Andy was the perfect candidate for the office *scapegoat*.
13. **talisman** (tāl' ĩs mən) *noun* magical charm for protection  
Rabbit's feet, horseshoes, and four-leaf clovers are considered lucky *talismans*.  
*syn: amulet*
14. **usurp** (yōō sŭrp') *verb* to take over; to seize power  
While the king was ill, his ministers attempted a coup to *usurp* his power.  
*syn: seize* *ant: abdicate*
15. **vacillate** (vās' ə lāt') *verb* waver; to sway indecisively  
For years Bobby *vacillated* between liking one band and then another.  
*syn: hesitate* *ant: to be resolute*

### Exercise I — Words in Context

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

- pellucid**      **vacillate**      **dulcet**      **expurgate**      **archaic**
- A. The English professor was hard at work trying to \_\_\_\_\_ words which were not to be in the new dictionary, beginning with the \_\_\_\_\_ ones.
- B. The police easily saw through the suspect's \_\_\_\_\_ alibi when his story started to \_\_\_\_\_ in minor details.
- C. The sounds of the choir singing during services seemed sweet and \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- relegated**      **patronizing**      **iniquity**      **abstemious**      **lithe**
- D. Each and every \_\_\_\_\_ was seized upon by the \_\_\_\_\_ evangelist as evidence of his congregation's wrongdoings.
- E. The popular athlete, muscular and \_\_\_\_\_, spoke to the overweight audience in a very \_\_\_\_\_ manner.