

11. **sectarian** (sĕk tār' ē ən) *adjective* narrowly confined to a particular group
Jack's church is *nonsectarian* and allows outsiders to worship there.
12. **stringent** (strĭn' jənt) *adjective* strict; rigorous
After he crashed the family car, more *stringent* rules were applied to the teenager's social life.
syn: severe, restrictive *ant: flexible*
13. **trite** (trə) *adjective* hackneyed; cliched; lacking interest
Trite expressions and slang should be avoided in serious writing.
syn: ordinary *ant: original*
14. **venerate** (vēn' ə rāt') *verb* to respect, worship, or revere
In many foreign countries, worshippers *venerate* animal gods.
ant: desecrate
15. **wrenching** (rĕnch' ĭng) *adjective* violent, forceful twisting
Separation from his children left him with a *wrenching* pain inside.

Exercise I — Words in Context

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

malingering **scullion** **trite** **impetuous** **platitude**

- A. The hapless kitchen _____, dirty and covered with burns from the stove, became completely whinged when the boss told him to serve the meal. He was disrupted by this new duty and was not calmed by the _____, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." The comment just seemed _____ to him. Often, instead of working, he would _____, angry at the new responsibility, and in a(n) _____ moment threw a rock through the window.

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

imbroglio **sanctimonious** **wrenching** **peregrination** **hubris**

- B. During the difficult, wearisome _____ across the Alps, the team leader received a call that his child was sick. "It was a _____ decision," he said to the group, "but I must leave at once." The others said their farewells, but soon they began to argue over the route, and the _____ eventually doomed the mission.
- C. The parole officer soon realized the man's attitude toward honest work was nothing but _____ words. He feared that, in the end, the man's _____ would get him in trouble again.