

Lesson Seven

1. **anecdote** (ăn' ĭk dōt') *noun* a short account or story
New parents often enjoy sharing *anecdotes* about their children.
syn: narrative

2. **cerebral** (sēr' ə brəl) *adjective* relating to the brain; intelligent
I felt I was unprepared to participate in the *cerebral* discussion about cold fusion.
syn: intellectual *ant: intuitive*

3. **churlish** (chūr' lĭsh) *adjective* boorish or vulgar; surly
The lout's *churlish* behavior offended the genteel townspeople.
syn: coarse, uncouth, rude *ant: courteous, polished*

4. **cogent** (kō' jənt) *adjective* convincing; clear reasoning
NASA's *cogent* argument on the benefits of a space station convinced the government to fund the project.
syn: relevant, valid *ant: poorly reasoned*

5. **convoluted** (kōn' və lōōt') *adjective* intricate, difficult to discern; overlapping
The *convoluted* physics problem took the class the entire week to solve.
syn: complicated *ant: simple*

6. **entreat** (ĕn trēt') *verb* to ask or petition for; plead
The small children first *entreated* their mother, then cried for candy in the supermarket check-out line.
syn: request, beseech

7. **gibberish** (jĭb' ər ĭsh) *noun* nonsense; unintelligible speech
At the zoo, monkey *gibberish* always made the children smile.

8. **incumbent** (ĭn kŭm' bənt) *adjective* obligatory; necessary
It is *incumbent* upon citizens to vote.
syn: required

9. **inimical** (ĭ nĭm' ĭ kəl) *adjective* adverse; hostile
Drug and alcohol abuse are habits *inimical* to good health.
syn: noxious, antagonistic, detrimental

10. **livid** (lĭv' ĭd) *adjective* angry, furious
When I was brought home by the police, my father was *livid*; he yelled at me for hours.
syn: enraged *ant: placid*

11. **lurid** (lŭŕ' ĭd) *adjective* sensational; ghastly
The *lurid* political sex scandal made headlines in every tabloid newspaper across the country.
syn: gruesome, vivid *ant: mild*
12. **promulgate** (prŏm' əl gāt') *verb* to announce; to make known
Galileo was unable to *promulgate* his theories on astronomy because the church forbade it.
syn: advocate
13. **spurious** (spyŏŕ' ē əs) *adjective* false, incorrect
Spurious reasoning led people to believe that the earth was flat.
syn: feigned, bogus, counterfeit *ant: genuine*
14. **staid** (stād) *adjective* sedate, dignified; proper
Everyone assumed he had a *staid* personality because of his quiet speaking voice and nonexistent sense of humor.
ant: garish
15. **surfeit** (sŭr' fĭt) *noun* an excessive amount
A *surfeit* of aluminum caused its price to fall to historic lows.
syn: fullness, satiation *ant: dearth*

Exercise I — Words in Context

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

churlish **entreat** **gibbering** **livid** **inimical**

- A. I had already sat in the office more than four hours. After I was forced to listen to her _____ on the phone all that time, the receptionist finally allowed me to see the chairman, who was nearly as _____ as I was at the time wasted. He shot a(n) _____ glare at his underling, which fully conveyed his outrage.
- B. No one could _____ the cat to climb down from the tree; however, one _____ child suggested hitting the feline with a rock.

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

convoluted **cogent** **cerebral** **staid** **spurious**

- C. Dr. Abrams, a _____ mathematics professor, solved the difficult conundrum through months of intense, _____ reasoning. The collegiate evaluating committee declared the calculations quite _____ with no _____ errors. He was awarded a \$100,000 prize but, nevertheless, continued to live a lonely, _____ existence.