

Lesson Eight

1. **allay** (ə lā´) *verb* to reduce the intensity of; relieve; pacify
The river guide's advice helped to *allay* my fears about white water rafting.
syn: soften, assuage *ant: excite*
2. **ameliorate** (ə mēl´ yə rāt´) *verb* to make better, improve
Despite the help of negotiators, no one could *ameliorate* the labor dispute.
ant: worsen
3. **asperity** (ă spēr´ ĭ tē) *noun* roughness or harshness; severity
The teacher was reprimanded after his unnecessary *asperity* caused a student to cry.
syn: bitterness, irritability
4. **exegesis** (ĕk´ sə jē´ sĭs) *noun* an analysis; interpretation of
The students read an *exegesis* of *Hamlet* in order to better understand the text.
syn: explanation
5. **extradite** (ĕk´ strə dē´) *verb* to release an accused criminal to another jurisdiction
The government of France employed extraordinary legal measures to *extradite* the murderer back to his native country.
6. **hypocrisy** (hĭ pŏk´ rĭ sē) *noun* two-faced, falseness
I was astonished at the wealthy singer's *hypocritical* statements about the purity of poverty.
ant: sincerity
7. **inveigh** (ĭn vā´) *verb* to protest, oppose
The crowd of civil activists gathered outside the state building, *inveighing* against the unfair law.
syn: rail
8. **lionize** (lĭŏnē´) *verb* to honor or celebrate
The press proceeded to *lionize* the fireman after his dramatic rescue of a small child.
9. **pander** (păn´ dər) *verb* to act as a go-between; to exploit weaknesses of others
Many politicians are *pandering* to voters' fears of violent crime and loss of social security to get elected.
10. **profligate** (prŏf´ ĭ ġĭt) *adjective* wasteful; immoral
The two children, one *profligate*, the other cheap, argued constantly over their inheritance.
syn: licentious *ant: moral*

11. **recalcitrant** (rĭ kăĭl' sĭ trənt) *adjective* stubbornly resistant
The *recalcitrant* child kicked and screamed as his parents led him to his first day of school.
syn: resistant *ant: compliant*
12. **renunciation** (rĭ nŭn' sē ā' shən) *noun* rejection; abandonment
The leader was forced to issue a *renunciation* of his previous order due to a misunderstanding.
syn: relinquishment, repudiation *ant: claim, acceptance*
13. **unimpeachable** (ŭn' ĩm pē' chə bəl) *adjective* beyond doubt; unquestionable
The encyclopedia is usually an *unimpeachable* resource; the Internet is not.
ant: discredited
14. **unwieldy** (ŭn wēl' dē) *adjective* not easily held
Many students avoid learning new vocabulary words because they are difficult and *unwieldy* to use in everyday speech.
syn: bulky, clumsy *ant: manageable*
15. **vitiate** (vĭsh' ē āt') *verb* to reduce the value of; to corrupt or debase
Joe claimed he had been *vitiated* by his horrid environment and therefore was not responsible for his terrible deeds.
syn: spoil, mar, ruin

Exercise I— Words in Context

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

asperity renunciation hypocrisy unwieldy extradited

- A. Even though the placards they carried were large and _____, the angry crowd broke through the police barricade. The atmosphere was charged with rage and _____, and the crowd demanded the prisoner not be _____ but handed over. The leader of the mob then promised a _____ of violence only if their demands were met. The police denounced that statement as pure _____.

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

pandered vitiated exegesis lionize recalcitrant

- B. While no one did more to _____ the egotistical author than he himself, even he would have been surprised at how complimentary the critic's _____ of his last work was.
- C. Although his parents _____ to his every whim, the _____ child was rarely cooperative.
- D. Just one visible nail _____ the entire woodworking project.