

Lesson Ten

1. **idolatry** (ī dōl' ə trē) *noun* excessive or blind adoration; worship of an object
When the people began to worship the statue, the priest accused them of *idolatry*.
2. **ignoble** (ig nō' bəl) *adj.* dishonorable, shameful
Cheating on an exam is an *ignoble* way to get good grades.
syn: despicable, base *ant: noble, glorious*
3. **imminent** (im' ə nənt) *adj.* likely to happen; threatening
Although danger was *imminent*, the crew seemed quite relaxed.
syn: impending, close at hand *ant: distant, delayed*
4. **immolate** (im' ə lāt) *verb* to kill someone as a sacrificial victim, usually by fire.
Some Buddhist monks *immolated* themselves as their form of protest against the government's policies.
5. **immutable** (i myōō' tə bəl) *adj.* unchangeable, fixed
The laws of nature are *immutable*.
syn: enduring *ant: flexible, changeable*
6. **impair** (im pāir') *verb* to weaken; to cause to become worse
Mothers used to say that reading in poor light could *impair* your vision.
syn: damage; deteriorate *ant: enhance*
7. **impale** (im pāl') *verb* to pierce with a sharp stake through the body
With a sharp stick, the natives were able to *impale* a fish in the stream.
8. **impalpable** (im pāl' pə bəl) *adj.* unable to be felt, intangible
The powder was so *impalpable* that no grit could be found.
9. **impecunious** (im pī kyōō' nē əs) *adj.* without money; penniless
Although *impecunious*, his pride kept him from asking for help.
syn: destitute, indigent *ant: affluent, prosperous*
10. **impediment** (im pēd' ə mənt) *noun* a barrier; obstruction
The supervisor wouldn't be an *impediment* to her advancement.
syn: obstacle, hindrance *ant: aid*
11. **imperative** (im pēr' ə tiv) *adj.* extremely necessary; vitally important
It is *imperative* that you leave immediately.
12. **imperious** (im pîr' ē əs) *adj.* domineering; haughty
The judge pronounced his findings in an *imperious* voice.
syn: overbearing; arrogant; masterful *ant: servile, submissive*

13. **impinge** (im pĭnj') *verb* to strike; to encroach
The new leash law was viewed by Mr. Jackson as *impinging* on his constitutional rights.
14. **impious** (im' pē əs) *adj.* disrespectful toward God
He considered laughing in church *impious* behavior.
syn: irreligious, profane *ant: devout, pious*
15. **importune** (im pōr tōn') *verb* to persistently ask; to beg
John *importuned* his father, but could not get the car keys.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

immutable **impale** **impecunious** **impious**
imminent **importune** **imperiously**

- A. The storm, judging from the darkness in the sky, was _____. The lightning seemed to _____ the earth with its ferocity. The old barn, however, stood _____ at the end of the field as though daring the _____ laws of nature to do their worst.
- B. Although the man was _____, one could not tell that by his manner or dress. It would never occur to him, even at his worst moments, to _____ God for intercession. He would have felt such a request to be an _____ act.

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

impalpable **ignoble** **impediment** **immolate**
impinge **imperative** **idolatry** **impaired**

- C. As I entered the room, I heard my father say "Yes, _____ often leads to strange excesses. One tribe I spent some time with would go out and kidnap one of their enemies. Then, in the light of a full moon, they would tie the poor victim to a stake and _____ him. Not frequently," he concluded, "rationality is _____ by religious ardor."
- D. "Sometimes," the guru was saying, "there is something in the air that is _____ to ordinary mortals, but easily felt by the trained believer." "Nonsense," I said. "That kind of talk is a major _____ to clear thinking."
- E. I said, "It is _____ that we find the key. If we cannot find it, I will be forced to _____ on the kindness of our neighbors."
"Could you be so _____," Jack replied, "as to go and beg something from people that you know despise you, and whom you despise?"