

Lesson Thirteen

1. **nirvana** (nîr vâ´ nə) *noun* a condition of great peace or happiness
John was seeking *nirvana* to heal his wounded soul.
2. **nonentity** (nŏn ěn´ tĭ tē) *noun* a person or thing of little importance
“I do exist,” she yelled. “You treat me as a *nonentity*.”
3. **non sequitur** (nŏn sĕk´ wi tər) *noun* something that does not logically follow
“That,” said John, “is a *non sequitur*. Because he can’t control his own family, it doesn’t follow that he would make a poor mayor.”
4. **nubile** (nŏŏ´ bəl) *adj.* a female suitable for marriage in regard to age and physical development
In the last six years she had grown from a short, thin twelve year old to a *nubile* young woman.
5. **obdurate** (ăb´ də rət) *adj.* stubborn, hardhearted
The young boy was *obdurate* in his refusal to make any trade.
syn: inflexible, obstinate *ant: compliant, amenable*
6. **obfuscate** (ŏb fŭs´ kăt) *verb* to confuse; to bewilder
The realtor tried to *obfuscate* the issue and it was working, because the confused buyer did not know if he was coming or going.
syn: muddle, obscure *ant: clarify, elucidate*
7. **obloquy** (ăb´ lə kwē) *noun* strong disapproval; a bad reputation resulting from public criticism
His behavior brought shame to his family and *obloquy* on himself.
syn: censure, rebuke *ant: acclaim, praise*
8. **obsequious** (əb sĕ´ kwē əs) *adj.* excessively submissive or overly attentive
The waiter’s *obsequious* behavior annoyed the patrons at the expensive restaurant.
syn: servile, fawning *ant: domineering, haughty*
9. **obviate** (ŏb´ vĕ āt) *verb* to prevent; to get around
They refused to release the film because they wished to *obviate* a barrage of criticism.
syn: circumvent
10. **offal** (ŏ´ fəl) *noun* garbage; waste parts
The *offal* from the treatment plant entered the ocean and posed a danger to both man and fish.
11. **olfactory** (ŏl fak´ tə rē) *adj.* pertaining to smell
On breezy days, your *olfactory* sense was assaulted by odors from the landfill.
12. **onerous** (ŏn´ ěr əs) *adj.* burdensome; heavy; hard to endure
The doctor had the *onerous* job of informing the family of the child’s death.

13. **onus** (ō' nəs) *noun* a burden, responsibility, obligation
With his father's death, the *onus* fell upon the oldest son.
14. **optimum** (ōp' tə mŭm) *noun adj.* the best, the most favorable, the ideal
The pilot was waiting for *optimum* conditions before setting out on the dangerous flight.
15. **opulent** (ōp' yə lənt) *adj.* rich, luxurious; wealthy
It was obvious from their *opulent* style of living that the stock market decline did not injure them.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

nonentity optimum obfuscate opulent

- A. He felt it was the _____ time to sell his stocks. The market had never been so good, and he wanted the _____ lifestyle that the profits would afford him. His broker, however, continued to _____ the situation; and because John had always felt himself a(n) _____, he had no faith in his own judgment.

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

**nubile onerous olfactory
offal obloquy nirvana**

- B. The mayor's situation was a(n) _____ one. He knew something had to be done to find a new landfill, but no people wanted the _____ in their neighborhood. His suggestion of a trash-to-steam plant met with the same criticism. "Either one," said his critics, "would be an attack upon the _____ senses."
- C. "Each of us," the guru said, "must seek and find his own _____. There is no road map." At this point a beautiful, _____ woman walked sensuously to the stage. Putting her arms around his neck, she suddenly shouted, "You big fake!" Turning to the audience, she told them of the _____ that he had heaped on her because she had refused his advances.

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

obviate obsequious non sequitur onus obdurate

- D. Some young soldiers do not want the _____ of command. In fact, if it appears that it will be thrust on them, they will often pull some dumb stunt in order to _____ what they consider an intolerable situation.
- E. "Sometimes," Paul said, "I hate myself for being so _____. At work, I am the perfect 'yes man.' But then I go home and totally change. With my family, I am _____. I will not give an inch. Happiness isn't meant for me," Paul concluded. "I can never be happy."