

Lesson Fourteen

1. **orifice** (ôr' ə fīs) *noun* mouth; opening
The lost boy was found high in the mountains in the *orifice* of a deserted drain pipe.
2. **orthography** (ôr thŏg' rə fē) *noun* correct spelling
The teacher said that students would never get good grades in composition unless they learned *orthography*.
3. **paleontology** (pā lē ən tŏl ə jē) *noun* a science dealing with prehistoric life through study of fossils
By using the techniques of *paleontology*, she dated the skeleton at 2000 B.C.
4. **palliate** (pāl' ē āt) *verb* to ease, to lessen, to soothe
She became a nurse to *palliate* suffering, but all she had done so far was record temperatures.
syn: alleviate; excuse *ant: intensify, exacerbate*
5. **panache** (pə năsh') *noun* self-confidence; a showy manner
The actor had great *panache*, so his first visit to the late night talk show didn't make him the least bit nervous.
6. **pandemic** (păn dēm' ĭk) *adj.* general; widespread
The World Health Organization has announced that the disease has become *pandemic*.
7. **panegyric** (păn ə jĭr' ĭk) *noun* an expression of praise
The ancient Greeks gave *panegyrics* and crowns of ivy in tribute to their heroes.
syn: tribute, extolment *ant: denunciation*
8. **paradigm** (păr' ə dīm) *noun* a model, an example
John was always held up as a *paradigm* of good manners to the rest of the class.
9. **parochial** (pə rŏ' kē əl) *adj.* local; narrow; limited
Because he had never traveled outside his own town, Jim had a very *parochial* view of life.
syn: provincial, narrow-minded *ant: universal, catholic*
10. **parody** (păr' ə dē) *noun* a work which imitates another in a ridiculous manner
Joan's *parody* of the English teacher was funny to everyone but the English teacher.
syn: caricature, burlesque, lampoon
11. **paroxysm** (păr' ək sĭz' əm) *noun* a sudden outburst; a fit
The class, which burst out in a *paroxysm* of laughter, stopped as soon as the principal walked into the room.

12. **patent** (pă' t nt) *adj.* evident or obvious
John knew it was a *patent* lie, and he could not understand why everyone didn't see it as such.
13. **peccadillo** (pĕk ə dĭl' ō) *noun* a minor offense, a misdeed
Picking up the tips from the table was just a *peccadillo* in Bill's mind but a major offense in the minds of the waiters.
14. **pecuniary** (pi kyŭōō' nē er' ē) *adj.* pertaining to money; financial
Jill found herself in a bad *pecuniary* position at the end of the month when the rent became due.
15. **pedantic** (pə dăn' tĭk) *adj.* tending to show off one's learning
After one year of college, Tom lost all of his friends because of his *pedantic* behavior.
syn: bookish

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

palliate	orifice	paleontologist
pedantic	panegyric	pecuniary

- A. Sure, the _____ was good for his ego, but a raise would have helped _____ the terrible _____ position in which John found himself. He could not pay the rent and buy food for his family with promises and praise.
- B. The _____ found the fossil in a(n) _____ on the hillside, which was exposed after the earthquake. While the story of his find could have been interesting, he related it in such a _____ manner that the common folk in his audience were bored and confused.

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

parody	pandemic	panache	paroxysm
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- C. As the door opened and the young man entered the room, the music suddenly stopped; and there was an unusual period of silence as everyone looked at the newcomer. A young man with less _____ might have waited, but not Ross. Blowing kisses to everyone in the room, he walked up to the hostess and hugged her. The next day in a restaurant, Mark performed a _____ of Ross' entrance for the amusement of his grandmother. The old lady broke into a _____ of laughter, and people around the room smiled. But as he continued his performance and the old lady continued her laughing, more people began to laugh. Soon, the laughter was _____. Even the waiters and the grouchy cook were laughing.