

Lesson Seventeen

1. **salient** (sā' lē ənt) *adj.* significant; conspicuous; standing out from the rest
The *salient* facts of the case finally came to light during the eyewitness account.

2. **salutary** (sāl' yə tēr ē) *adj.* healthful; wholesome
The country air had a *salutary* influence on the child's chronic cough.
syn: beneficial *ant: pernicious*

3. **sang-froid** (sän frwa') *noun* calmness; composure or cool self-possession
Even though the heckler continued to harangue him, the speaker kept his *sang-froid*.
syn: aplomb *ant: uneasiness, perturbation*

4. **sanguine** (säng' gwīn) *adj.* cheerful; optimistic
Sally's *sanguine* personality made everyone in her company pleased to be with her.

5. **sapient** (sā pī ənt) *adj.* wise; full of knowledge
Although a *sapient* man, he pays little attention to worldly concerns.
syn: sagacious *ant: fatuous, inane*

6. **saturnine** (săt' er nīn) *adj.* gloomy; sluggish
The hostess' *saturnine* attitude caused the party to end early.
syn: sullen, morose *ant: genial*

7. **savant** (sə vānt') *noun* a person of extensive learning; an eminent scholar
Einstein was a *savant* who will always be remembered for $E = MC^2$.

8. **scintillate** (sīn' tīl āt) *verb* to sparkle; to twinkle; to sparkle intellectually
The lights *scintillated* throughout the otherwise drab room.

9. **scurrilous** (skūr' ə ləs) *adj.* coarsely abusive; vulgar
Blackbeard the pirate and his men would never have been accepted into society because of their *scurrilous* behavior.

10. **sedition** (sī dīsh' ən) *noun* rebellion or resistance against the government
The Confederate States of America were charged with *sedition* when they left the Union.

11. **sedulous** (sej' ə ləs) *adj.* hard working; diligent
Everyone knew Jason would get ahead in the world because he was *sedulous* in all he undertook.

12. **sentient** (sēn' shənt) *adj.* conscious; capable of feeling or perception
No one knew if the girl in the coma was *sentient*, but they continued to hold and talk to her.

13. **shard** (shärd) *noun* a fragment
The doctor pulled a *shard* of glass from the girl's arm.
14. **shibboleth** (shĭb' ə lĭth) *noun* a slogan; a password
The old *shibboleth* promising "a chicken in every pot" would not get anyone elected today.
15. **sibilant** (sĭb' ə lənt) *adj.* a hissing sound
The Native-American guide couldn't see it, but the *sibilant* sounds told him that a snake was in the grass.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

shibboleth **salutary** **salient**
sang-froid **sedulously** **scintillating**

- A. The doctor's attitude was generally one of _____ no matter what news he had to tell his patient. In this instance, however, he could not help but smile as he told the young mother the _____ effect the new drug had on her sick infant.
- B. The party was filled with _____ conversation. The one _____ thing the guests had in common was their social class. It was a fund raiser for a good cause, and the hostess was _____ soliciting money from the guests. If she could only come up with a catchy _____ for the evening, she knew it would be a great success.

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

saturnine **sanguine** **savant** **sapient** **sibilant**

- C. Although normally a _____ individual, today Albert was depressed. He had just had a conversation with his grandfather, a _____, old man who had made all his money speculating in stocks. As soon as Albert walked in the door, his wife Vera knew something was wrong from the _____ expression on his face.
- D. Upon hearing the _____ sound, Russ knew there was a snake in the tent. Slowly, he looked around. Although he had spent the last ten years teaching at a college, he was not a mere _____ whose knowledge of snakes was limited to what he had read in books. Russ had had a great deal of practical experience with snakes, and now he thanked his stars for that.