

Lesson One

1. **adroit** (ə dɹɔɪt) *adj.* skillful, clever
 Everyone knew that he was *adroit* with figures, but he lacked the facility for public speaking.
syn: dexterous; apt *ant: clumsy, awkward*

2. **adulterate** (ə dʊl tə rāt) *verb* to make impure, to contaminate
adj. impure
 The fumes from the automobiles *adulterate* the air.
 The police were concerned about all the *adulterated* drugs on the street.
ant: refine; refined

3. **adventitious** (əd vɛn tʃɪʃ əs) *adj.* accidental; nonessential
 The scientists announced the breakthrough at a press conference and admitted that it had been an *adventitious* outcome.
syn: incidental

4. **aegis** (ē jɪs) *noun* a shield; protection; sponsorship
 The candidate felt he had a chance in the election because of the *aegis* of a former officeholder.
syn: backing

5. **aesthetic** (ɛs θɛt ɪk) *adj.* pertaining to beauty
 The house was a bargain financially, but it lacked any *aesthetic* quality.
syn: artistic

6. **affectation** (əf ɛk tə shən) *noun* a phony attitude; pose
 John felt that the outspoken Ruth was the only girl there who did not have any *affectations*.
syn: insincerity; sham *ant: sincerity, genuineness*

7. **affinity** (ə fɪn ɪ tē) *noun* an attraction to
 The young man had an *affinity* for fast cars and easy money.
syn: partiality, fondness *ant: aversion*

8. **affluence** (əf lʊ əns) *noun* wealth; richness
 Although Paul's family had much *affluence*, he was content to make do without their help.
syn: abundance *ant: impoverished, destitute*

9. **agape** (ə gāp) *adj.* open-mouthed; surprised; agog
 Even the judge was *agape* when the witness told the ridiculous story in court.
syn: awe-stricken

10. **aggrandize** (ə græn dīz) *verb* to enlarge; to expand
 Much of what they did was not to aid their country but to *aggrandize* their own positions.
syn: increase, augment, enrich *ant: decrease, diminish*

11. **altruism** (əl' trōō' iz əm) *noun* a concern for others; generosity
Ben's *altruism* was apparent as he stopped at the scene of the accident to offer his assistance.
syn: unselfishness, magnanimity *ant: selfishness, egoism*
12. **ambiguous** (əm bĭg' yōō əs) *adj.* open to more than one interpretation
The candidate's *ambiguous* comments tended to confuse the issue even more.
syn: unclear, uncertain, vague *ant: explicit, definite*
13. **amoral** (ā mōr' əl) *adj.* lacking a sense of right and wrong
Although a greedy man, he was not *amoral*; there were some things he would not do for money.
14. **amorphous** (ə mōr' fəs) *adj.* shapeless, formless, vague
Although the essay was due in two days, John couldn't get a handle on the topic, which remained *amorphous* in his mind.
15. **animosity** (ən ə mōs' ĭ tē) *noun* hatred
There was a general feeling of *animosity* toward the judge for giving the boys such a harsh sentence.
syn: ill-will, hostility *ant: friendliness, congeniality*

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

affectations adroit affluence adulterated affinity

- A. Because he was very _____ at manipulating stock purchases, his _____ grew rapidly. Despite his new wealth, however, he did not develop those _____ usually associated with the nouveau riche. But he did develop an _____ for life in the fast lane. It was this life style and _____ drugs that killed him.

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

amoral aggrandizement altruistic amorphous animosity

- B. His great _____ for them had no particular focus; rather there was something of an _____ quality to it. While not a religious man, he disliked churchgoers because he thought them to be _____. They were not at all _____; in fact, they were downright selfish. In those rare instances when they did do something for someone, it was done more for self- _____ than a desire to help others.