

Lesson Two

1. **antipathy** (ăn tip' ə thē) *noun* an intense dislike
So great was her feeling of *antipathy* that she was afraid it showed in her face.
syn: aversion *ant: affinity*

2. **antithesis** (ăn tith' ĩ sīs) *noun* an exact opposite; an opposite extreme
Love is the *antithesis* of hate.

3. **badinage** (băd n äzh') *noun* playful, teasing talk
verb to banter; to tease with playful talk
Although it started out as *badinage*, it quickly escalated to cutting insults.

4. **banal** (bā' nəl) *adj.* common, ordinary
His *banal* remarks quickly bored the entire class.
syn: trivial, insipid *ant: original, fresh*

5. **baroque** (bə rōk') *adj.* overly decorated
The new dance club had a great light show; the *baroque* furnishings seemed right in place.
syn: ornate *ant: simple*

6. **bauble** (bō' bəl) *noun* a showy but useless thing
John had to find some kind of *bauble* to give Mary for Christmas.
syn: trinket

7. **bedlam** (bēd' ləm) *noun* a noisy uproar; a scene of wild confusion
The concert hall was sheer *bedlam* until the rock star appeared.

8. **beguile** (bĭ gĭl') *verb* to deceive; to charm; to enchant
Scarlett O'Hara tried to *beguile* all the eligible men she met.

9. **besiege** (bĭ sēj') *verb* to overwhelm; to surround and attack
Congressmen were *besieged* with phone calls during the controversial hearings.

10. **besmirch** (bĭ smŭrch') *verb* to make dirty; to stain
My ex-best friend tried to *besmirch* my reputation with her vicious gossip.
syn: soil, sully, smear *ant: cleanse*

11. **bestial** (bēs' chəl) *adj.* savage, brutal
He took a *bestial* delight in tormenting the captive slaves.
syn: brutish, vile, cruel *ant: humane, kind*

12. **bilious** (bĭl' yəs) *adj.* bad tempered; cross
No one could stand being in the same room with Sam when he was in a *bilious* mood.
syn: grouchy, cantankerous *ant: pleasant*

13. **blanch** (blānch) *verb* to whiten, to make pale
Sue's face *blanched* visibly when she saw the charred remains of what had been her home.
14. **bland** (blānd) *adj.* mild, tasteless, dull
His *bland* manner had a calming effect on the children.
syn: smooth, agreeable *ant: exciting, thrilling*
15. **blandishment** (blān' dīsh mōnt) *noun* flattery
Silky-smooth *blandishments* poured from his lips as he tried to butter up the old lady.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

besieged **bedlam** **antithesis** **badinage** **baroque**

- A. The party was in _____ when John and Mary arrived. It was a complete _____ of the sedate cocktail party they had just left where the _____ of the guests was most pleasant. Now, the loud music and even louder talk made them feel _____, so they left at the first opportunity.

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

antipathy **banal** **bland** **besmirch** **baroque**

- B. The decorator had a(n) _____ for anything _____. He preferred subtle colors and earth tones to convey his message. Emily, however, felt that his ideas were _____, and she wanted something more spectacular. She did not want to _____ his reputation, but in the end she did so by telling all of her friends how _____ she felt his ideas were.

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

bestial **blanched** **blandishments**
bauble **bilious** **beguile**

- C. The _____ that Mark gave to Elizabeth was supposed to _____ her, but instead it made her _____. She knew what it had cost, and his face _____ visibly when she called him a cheapskate. None of Mark's further _____ could change her mind. Finally, an outraged Mark said that she was acting in a _____ manner.