

Lesson Three

1. **bombast** (bŏm' băst) *noun* impressive but meaningless language
Please, professor, no more *bombast*; just give me the facts.

2. **bona fide** (bŏ' nə fīd) *adj.* in good faith
We made a *bona fide* offer for the property.
syn: legitimate, genuine *ant: fraudulent, phony*

3. **boor** (boor) *noun* a rude or impolite person
My brother was acting like a *boor*.
syn: buffoon, clown *ant: sophisticate*

4. **bovine** (bŏ' vīn) *adj.* pertaining to cows or cattle
The critic described the large figures in the painting as *bovine*.

5. **bowdlerize** (boud' lēr īz) *verb* to remove offensive passages of a play, novel, etc.
If the editors *bowdlerize* much more of the book, there won't be anything left to read.
syn: to censor

6. **brevity** (brĕv' ĭ tē) *noun* briefness; short duration
The *brevity* of the candidate's speech surprised everyone.
syn: terseness, conciseness *ant: long-windedness*

7. **bucolic** (byŏŏ kŏl' ĭk) *adj.* pertaining to the countryside; rural, rustic
Jim wanted to find an old inn in a *bucolic* setting in which to have lunch.
syn: pastoral

8. **cajole** (kə jŏl') *verb* to coax, to persuade, to wheedle
Tim tried to *cajole* his parents into letting him use the new car.

9. **callow** (kăl' ō) *adj.* young and inexperienced
Although he was not the typical *callow* youth, he was not as experienced as he pretended.
syn: immature *ant: mature, sophisticated*

10. **carcinogen** (kăr sĭn' ə jən) *noun* causing cancer
It is widely believed that nicotine is a *carcinogen*.

11. **carnal** (kăr' nəl) *adj.* sensual, sexual
Even though Evelyn didn't understand the painting, she knew it had a *carnal* feeling about it.
syn: erotic, voluptuous *ant: chaste, modest*

12. **carrion** (kăr' ē ən) *noun* decaying flesh
The vultures circling in the sky led the border patrol to the *carrion* they had been seeking since the report of the disaster.

13. **cataclysm** (kăt' ə klīz əm) *noun* a violent change
The earthquake in Mexico was a *cataclysm* which no one could have foreseen.
syn: disaster, catastrophe *ant: triumph, boon*
14. **cataract** (kăt' ə răkt) *noun* 1. large waterfall; abnormality of the eye
Because of the *cataracts* in that part of the river, you can't put a canoe in the water.
My grandmother had to have a *cataract* surgically removed from her eye.
15. **caveat** (kā' vi ät) *noun* a warning
John did not heed that old *caveat* about swimming alone because he had such confidence in his own ability.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

bombastic **bovine** **carnal** **cajoled**

- A. The parents objected to the _____ aspects of the movie, not the language.
- B. When the professor said that all the well-fed people in his family picture had a _____ appearance, Mark became very angry. He wanted to rush in and call the professor a _____ old windbag, but Joan _____ him into calming down and sleeping on it before he took any action.

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

brevity / **bona fide** / **caveat** **callow**

- C. * The _____ real estate salesman had no idea that the offer was _____. He felt that the _____ of the negotiations indicated that something was wrong.* He kept thinking of the old _____ "Buyer Beware."

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

/ **carrion** **cataract** / **carcinogen** **boor**
cataclysm **bowdlerized** **bucolic**

- D. Upon retiring to the _____ life of the gentleman farmer, Jim was seen by his wife as something of a _____. She believed that only a _____ would shock him into his old self. It was only after the doctor told her that Jim was slowly losing his vision and that a _____ operation was necessary that she understood why he had been acting as he had.
- E. * Jeff discovered that one of the bodies had been taken to the medical examiner's office to