

Lesson Four

1. **celibate** (sĕl' ə bīt) *noun* unmarried;
adj. abstaining from sex
Priests are *celibates*.
In that religion, the priests take vows to remain impoverished and *celibate*.

2. **censure** (sĕn' shər) *verb* to criticize sharply
Congress voted to *censure* the young congressman because of his unethical behavior.
syn: blame, condemn, reproach *ant: praise, applaud*

3. **cessation** (sĕ sĕ' shən) *noun* a stopping; a discontinuance
Although there was a *cessation* in the hostilities, no one doubted that the battle would resume the next day.
syn: a pause, a ceasing *ant: a beginning, a commencement*

4. **chaff** (chaf) *noun* worthless matter
"Give me just the facts," the professor said. "Separate the wheat from the *chaff*."

5. **chagrin** (shə grĭn') *noun* embarrassment; a complete loss of courage
Joanne had never felt such *chagrin* as the time when she fell into the mud puddle in front of her fiancée's family.

6. **chimerical** (kə mĕr' ĭ kəl) *adj.* imaginary; fantastic
Although they laughed at his plans and called them *chimerical*, later events proved him to be a visionary.
syn: absurd, illusionary *ant: practical*

7. **coalesce** (kō ə lĕs') *verb* to blend, to merge
The anti-war group was made up of such different personalities that it took months before they could *coalesce* into a group that had some power.
syn: mix, unite, combine *ant: separate, divide*

8. **debacle** (dā bĕ' kəl) *noun* a complete failure; a total collapse
After reading the reviews, the actors knew the play was a *debacle* and would close in one night.
syn: a sudden disaster *ant: success, triumph*

9. **debauchery** (dĭ bŏ' chə rĕ) *noun* corruption; self-indulgence
He lived a life sunk in sin and *debauchery*.
syn: excess, dissipation

10. **deference** (dĕf' ər əns) *noun* respect; consideration
In *deference* to the young widow, we moved quietly aside and allowed her to leave first.
syn: regard, honor *ant: contempt*

11. **defile** (dĭ fĭl´) *verb* to pollute, to corrupt
The oil spill was of concern to the populace because it was bound to *defile* the streams and rivers for miles around.
12. **deign** (dān) *verb* to lower oneself before an inferior
“After what she did to me, I would not *deign* to say hello to her,” Mary said to Joe about her former best friend.
syn: stoop, condescend
13. **delineate** (dĭ lĭn´ ē āt) *verb* to describe, to depict
The politician went on to *delineate* his proposal on disarmament in greater detail.
14. **demeanor** (dĭ mē´ nər) *noun* behavior; manner of conducting oneself
Believe me, his shy demeanor is just an act; he is really quite wild.
syn: deportment
15. **denouement** (dā nōō mǎn´) *noun* an outcome, result
Hazel prided herself on being able to solve mysteries; but the story she was reading was elusive, and the *denouement* didn’t come until the final page.
syn: conclusion

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

cessation **chimerical** **debacle** **chagrined**

- A. The president called for a _____ of hostilities between the two warring countries; but his appeal was ignored, and as a result he was quite _____.
- B. Many of his opponents called it a _____ notion and predicted that it would end in a _____ that would take years to recover from.

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

coalesce **demeanor** **chaff**
defiling **denouement** **censure**

- C. In the _____ Holmes explained to Watson that he was able to infer very much from the _____ of the redheaded man. Then, after a little investigation, the clues began to _____; and a solution became apparent.
- D. During the hearings, the senator was accused of _____ the reputation of many innocent men; hence, they voted to _____ him. One of his critics said, “The senator never evaluated his information; if he had separated the important from the _____, he would never have said half the things he did say.”