

Lesson Five

1. **deride** (dĭ rĭd´) *verb* to ridicule, to mock
The professor was unpopular because he *derided* his students if they made a mistake.
syn: to scorn *ant: to praise*

2. **desiccated** (dĕs´ ĭ kāt´ d) *adj.* dried up
When she opened the old Bible, one yellow, *desiccated* rose fell to the floor.

3. **despicable** (dĕs´ pĭ kə bəl) *adj.* contemptible, hateful
Only a *despicable* cad would behave so horribly.
syn: vile, base *ant: laudable, worthy*

4. **desultory** (dĕs´ əl tōr ē) *adj.* wandering from subject to subject
He gave his talk in such a *desultory* fashion it was hard to understand.
syn: disconnected; rambling

5. **deviate** (dē´ vĕ āt) *verb* to turn aside
Sometimes it's better to *deviate* from the truth rather than hurt someone's feelings.
syn: digress, stray

6. **diadem** (dī´ ə dem´) *noun* a crown
Peter referred to his wife's blonde hair as her golden *diadem*.

7. **diaphanous** (dī āf´ ə nəs) *adj.* very sheer and light
The *diaphanous* gown was beautiful, but Gloria wasn't sure she had the nerve to wear it.
syn: transparent, gossamer *ant: opaque*

8. **dichotomy** (dī kōt´ ə mĭ) *noun* a division into two parts
While most of us see a *dichotomy* between the real and the unreal, some people contend that there is an overlapping.

9. **ebullient** (ĭ būl´ yənt) *adj.* enthusiastic
The *ebullient* crowd cheered as the royal family appeared.
syn: exuberant, lively *ant: dejected, dispirited*

10. **eclectic** (ĕ klĕk´ tĭk) *adj.* choosing from various sources
The room was furnished in an *eclectic* manner, but it all came together very well.
syn: discriminating, selective, catholic *ant: narrow*

11. **edify** (ĕd´ ə fĭ) *verb* improve someone morally
The sermon was meant to *edify* the congregation.

12. **effete** (e fēt') *adj.* worn out; barren
 Although worn down by age and a life of hard work, the man was far from *effete*.
syn: exhausted; spent and sterile *ant: vital, vigorous*
13. **egregious** (ĭ grē' jəs) *adj.* remarkably bad; outrageous
 His remark was so *egregious* that it shocked everyone at the party.
syn: flagrant, gross *ant: moderate*
14. **elegy** (ĕl' ə jē) *noun* a sad or mournful poem
 Although she liked all poetry, she particularly liked those *elegies* that made her cry.
15. **elicit** (ĭ līs' ĭt) *verb* to draw forth; to call forth
 The attorney tried to *elicit* a response from his client, but the man remained mute.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

ebullient **dichotomy** **diadem** **diaphanous** **egregious**

- A. At her coronation, the _____ dress and the golden _____ of the new Queen met with the _____ approval of the crowd. It seemed to prove that the _____ between the rich and the poor did not affect the royal family. In only one generation, however, the _____ behavior of her children and their spouses turned the people against the monarchy.

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

elegy **edifying** **effete** **eclectic** **elicited**

- B. The _____ had made Sally cry because it _____ all of the old memories of her grandmother. At the time of her grandmother's death, she had been old and _____, but Sally could remember the interesting, _____ person she had been; she was a person who was truly _____ to all who had known her.

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

despicable **deviate** **deride** **desultory** **desiccated**

- C. John felt that it would be fun to _____ the _____ old man because the man would be unable to defend himself. John's friends felt his behavior was so _____ that they walked out and left without him.
- D. John's father was agitated. Since his return John had behaved in a _____ manner, never quite giving anything his full attention. His father, on the other hand, was goal-oriented. He would chart a course and never _____ from it.