

Lesson Seven

1. **factious** (făk' shəs) *adj.* causing disagreement
We tried not to be *factious*, but we just couldn't agree with the speaker.

2. **fastidious** (fă stīd' ē əs) *adj.* hard to please; fussy
My neighbor is a *fastidious* housekeeper.
syn: meticulous, exacting *ant: casual, lax*

3. **fatuous** (fach' ōō əs) *adj.* foolish, inane
Her *fatuous* simperings began to grate on our nerves.
syn: silly *ant: sensible, wise*

4. **fecund** (fē' kənd) *adj.* fertile, productive
The rabbits were very *fecund*, and we now have two dozen of them.
syn: prolific *ant: sterile*

5. **ferret** (fēr' it) *noun* a small animal of the weasel family
verb to search or drive out
Although John knew the answer was in the text, he just couldn't *ferret* it out.

6. **fervent** (fēr' vənt) *adj.* eager, earnest
We made a *fervent* attempt to capture the stallion, but he was too quick for us.
syn: burning, passionate, ardent *ant: apathetic*

7. **fetish** (fēt' ish) *noun* an object that receives respect or devotion
The primitive tribes made a *fetish* of their totem poles.
syn: charm, talisman

8. **finesse** (fī nēs') *noun* diplomacy; tact; artful management
The diplomat was given the task because his superiors felt he had the necessary *finesse*.
syn: skill, cunning *ant: tactlessness*

9. **fiscal** (fīs' kəl) *adj.* pertaining to finances
This was the accountant's busiest time because it was the end of the company's *fiscal* year.

10. **fissure** (fīsh' ər) *noun* an opening; a groove; a split
The small *fissure* in the tank was cause for great alarm.

11. **flaccid** (flăk' sīd) *adj.* flabby
The retired athlete now had *flaccid* muscles because he refused to work out.
syn: weak, feeble *ant: solid, taut*

12. **flagellate** (flăj' ə lāt) *verb* to whip; to lash
The boy's father never beat him, but would *flagellate* him verbally.
syn: flog
13. **flaunt** (flōnt) *verb* to show off
Some people *flaunt* their wealth.
syn: to boast, exhibit *ant: conceal*
14. **flout** (flout) *verb* to ridicule; to show contempt for
He broke the rules and *flouted* all authority, and now he has to pay.
syn: mock, scoff *ant: esteem, revere*
15. **foment** (fō mēnt') *verb* to stir up; to incite
At the convention, people were hired to *foment* disruptions during the senator's speech.
syn: instigate; arouse *ant: quell, curb*

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

factious fastidious fetish finesse

- A. My mother is a _____ housekeeper, but she makes a _____ out of clean floors. I have tried to tell her that she doesn't need to wash and wax them so often, but I must lack _____ because all I have been able to accomplish is to bring a _____ element to our relationship.

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

flaunt fatuous fervent fiscally

- B. I have a _____ need to become _____ responsible. My problem is that I like to _____ what I have, so I buy things that are showy and expensive. I know this is _____ on my part, but I can't seem to change.

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

**flaccid foment flagellating fecund
flout fissure ferrets**

- C. John wanted to buy pair of _____ but was concerned that they might be too _____ and he would end up with more than he could handle.
- D. When the governor accused the farm workers of trying to _____ a riot, he caused a deep