

Lesson Nine

1. **halcyon** (həl' sē ən) *adj.* calm, pleasant
 The *halcyon* days of last month contrasted with the turbulent days of this month.
syn: tranquil, unruffled *ant: troubled, tumultuous*

2. **hallow** (həl' ō) *verb* to make holy
adj. holy
 We cannot *hallow* this field, for the men who died here made it holy.
 Many colleges refer to their class buildings as *hallowed* halls of learning.
syn: bless; consecrate *ant: desecrate*

3. **harbinger** (här' bɪn jər) *noun* an omen or sign
 The presence of the black cat was taken as a *harbinger* of ill luck.
syn: portent

4. **harlequin** (här' lə kwən) *noun* a clown
 One of Picasso's famous paintings, *Harlequin*, is a painting of an old-fashioned clown.

5. **hector** (hɛk' tər) *verb* to bully; to pester
 Unless you stand up to him, that bully will *hector* you the entire year.
syn: browbeat

6. **hedonism** (hɛd' n ɪz əm) *noun* pursuit of pleasure, especially of the senses.
 John believed in *hedonism*, rather than self-sacrifice.

7. **hegira** (hɪ jɪ' rə) *noun* flight, escape
 During the Vietnam War, there was a *hegira* to Canada by people opposed to the war.

8. **hermetic** (hər mɛt' ɪk) *adj.* tightly sealed
 That medicine should be packed in *hermetic* containers.
syn: airtight

9. **heterogeneous** (hɛt ə ɹ ə jē' nē əs) *adj.* different; dissimilar
 The squad of soldiers in a typical war movie is a *heterogeneous* group of young men from quite varied backgrounds.
syn: diverse, varied *ant: homogeneous, similar*

10. **hiatus** (hɪ ə' təs) *noun* a pause or gap
 During the summer *hiatus*, the cast of the television show was free to pursue other interests.

11. **hoi polloi** (hɔɪ' pə lɔɪ') *noun* common people; the masses
 The *hoi polloi* loved to watch the Christians fight the lions.

12. **hospice** (hōs' pīs) *noun* a shelter
The new *hospice* for cancer patients opened in July.
13. **hubris** (hyōō' brīs) *noun* excessive pride or self-confidence
The Greek warriors were known for their *hubris* and their fierceness in battle.
syn: haughtiness, arrogance *ant: humility, diffidence*
14. **hybrid** (hī' brīd) *noun* anything of mixed origin
adj. mixed, assorted
The prize-winning roses were *hybrids*, combining the best whites and reds.
They were *hybrid* roses.
15. **idiosyncrasy** (īd ē ō sīng' krə sē) *noun* a peculiar personality trait
Hiding money in tin cans was only one of the old man's *idiosyncrasies*.

Exercise I - Words in Context

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

hegira halcyon hermetically hedonist harbinger

- A. The _____ days of August became, too soon, the frantic days of September when there was so much to do to get ready for school. The _____ of Labor Day threw Mother into a frenzy of buying school clothes and putting away bathing suits. We all knew she would have preferred being a _____ and staying at the beach, but the _____ to the city had already begun. As we watched, car after car passed by with the windows up and air conditioners blasting. The occupants were _____ sealed off from the life they were leaving.

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

hubris hybrids idiosyncratic heterogeneous

- B. In his greenhouse he grew _____, of which he was justly proud. Unfortunately, the neighborhood parties were made up of a _____ group of people, some of whom knew little or nothing about flowers. They interpreted his pride as arrogance and said that he was inflicted with _____. And although his wife had warned him that his behavior made him appear _____, he paid little attention to her comments.

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

hiatus hectoring hallowed harlequin hoi polli hospice

- C. The _____ was opened for all who needed shelter during that cold spell last winter. The founder of the group running the shelter was on _____ from his job as an accountant. When the shelter first opened, the neighborhood _____ came out in full force, _____ the employees and clients because the residents did not want this shelter in their neighborhood.