

# Lesson 24

## Definitions



1.	<b>abase</b>	uh BAYS	to degrade, to humiliate		
	Synonyms >>	corrupt, debase, debauch, demean, deprave, vitiate, pervert		Antonym >>	to exalt
		The bitter woman deliberately set out to abase her husband in public.			
	Derivatives >>	abasement, abaser, abased, abasing			
2.	<b>abdicate</b>	AB duh kayt	to renounce or to give up a power		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to usurp
		In order to marry the commoner, the king had to abdicate his throne.			
	Derivatives >>	abdicable, abdicative, abdicator, abdicated, abdicating			
3.	<b>brazen</b>	BRAY zen	shameless, insolent, disrespectful		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	reserved; mild
		Pinching that woman was a very brazen act.			
	Derivatives >>	brazenly, brazenness, brazenfaced			
4.	<b>caustic</b>	KAW stik	sarcastically biting, acrid		
	Synonyms >>	mordant, scathing		Antonym >>	kind; gentle
		Critics are known for their caustic remarks about movies that they do not like.			
	Derivatives >>	caustically, causticity			
5.	<b>commiserate</b>	kuh MIZ uh rate	to express sympathy or pity		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to remain aloof
		I commiserated with the family about their loss.			
	Derivatives >>	commiserated, commiserating, commiseration, commiseratively, commiserative			
6.	<b>decorum</b>	deh KOR um	appropriate conduct, correct and proper behavior		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	impropriety
		The students' decorum at the dance was excellent.			
	Derivatives >>	decorous, decorously, decorousness			
7.	<b>deference</b>	DEF ur uns	courteous going along with the opinions or wishes of another		
	Synonyms >>	homage, reverence, respect		Antonym >>	disrespect
		In deference to your wishes, I will not see him again.			
	Derivatives >>	deferential, deferentially, deferentiality			
8.	<b>drone</b>	DRONE	speaking in a monotonous tone; a continuous low humming sound		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	
		I could hardly endure the constant drone of the speaker's voice.			
	Derivatives >>	droned, droning, drones, droner, droningly, dronish			
9.	<b>enunciate</b>	eh NUN see ate	to pronounce clearly		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	to slur
		Please enunciate your response so that everyone can understand you.			
	Derivatives >>	enunciabile, enunciation, enunciative, enunciator			
10.	<b>girth</b>	GURTH	size or dimensions (usually the measure around a body)		
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >>	
		To be a sumo wrestler, one must have a large girth.			
	Derivatives >>	girths			
11.	<b>grandiose</b>	GRAN dee ose	impressive, imposing		
	Synonyms >>	grand, magnificent, majestic, stately		Antonym >>	small and unimpressive
		They have grandiose plans to build a new football stadium			
	Derivatives >>	grandiosely, grandioseness, grandiosity			

12.	<b>inception</b>	in SEP shun	the beginning of something
	Synonyms >>	origin, source	Antonym >> conclusion
	Joe has worked for the company since its inception in 1935.		
	Derivatives >>	incept, inceptive, inceptively, inceptor	
13.	<b>ineffable</b>	in EF uh bul	incapable of being expressed in speech or words
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> easily expressed
	Her delight in being selected as a cheerleader was ineffable.		
	Derivatives >>	ineffability, ineffableness, ineffably	
14.	<b>nebulous</b>	NEB yuh lus	lacking clarity of feature or sharpness of outline
	Synonyms >>	hazy, indistinct, turbid, clouded	Antonym >>
	She had a nebulous recollection of the meeting with the man, unable to provide any specific facts about it.		
	Derivatives >>	nebulously, nebulousness, nebulosity	
15.	<b>neophyte</b>	NEE uh fite	a recent convert, beginner, novice
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> veteran
	Being a neophyte to surfing, he is having trouble catching a wave.		
	Derivatives >>	neophytic, neophytism	
16.	<b>obtuse</b>	ub TUSE	dull of mind, insensitive, stupid
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> intelligent
	His obtuse response to the question showed that he did not understand the nature of the discussion.		
	Derivatives >>	obtusely, obtuseness, obtusion, obtusity	
17.	<b>parable</b>	PAIR uh bul	a short fictitious story that has a moral
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	Jesus often imparted knowledge to his disciples through parables.		
	Derivatives >>	parables	
18.	<b>rant</b>	RANT	to rave, to speak in a loud and attacking manner
	Synonyms >>	bombastic, claptrap, declamation, fustian, rodomontade	Antonym >> to speak peaceably
	He ranted constantly about how everyone was out to get him.		
	Derivatives >>	ranted, ranting	
19.	<b>reproach</b>	reh PROCH	to blame for something; a disgrace
	Synonyms >>	admonish, castigate, chasten, chastise, chide, rebuke,	Antonym >> to praise; accolade
	Her conduct was so good that it was beyond reproach.		
	Derivatives >>	reproachable, reproachful, reproachfully, reproachfulness, reproachingly	
20.	<b>savant</b>	suh VAHNT, SAY vant	a scholar, a learned person
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> dunce
	Woodrow Wilson is an example of a savant who became president .		
	Derivatives >>	savants	
21.	<b>stultifying</b>	STUL tuh fie ing	causing to be useless, crippling, causing to appear stupid
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	The teacher stultifies his position in the classroom if he permits bad behavior.		
	Derivatives >>	stultification	
22.	<b>syllabus</b>	SIL uh bus	a brief outline of the main points of a text or course of study
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	The syllabus that the professor gave to us stated that the final exam counts for 60% of our grade.		
	Derivatives >>	syllabi, syllabuses	
23.	<b>troupe</b>	TROOP	a company or group--usually theatrical performers
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	A Shakespeare troupe is coming to town to perform Macbeth.		
	Derivatives >>	trouper	
24.	<b>unequivocal</b>	un eh KWIV uh kul	without a doubt, clear
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> doubtful; questionable; ambiguous
	The President stated in an unequivocal manner, "If nominated, I will run; and if elected, I will serve."		
	Derivatives >>	unequivocally, unequivocalness	
25.	<b>vapid</b>	VAP id	dull, inane, insipid
	Synonyms >>	banal, flat, jejune	Antonym >> intelligent; interesting
	The vapid discussion between the two girls was boring and uninteresting.		
	Derivatives >>	vapidly, vapidness	

## Lesson 24

### Matching Test



Directions: Choose the definition that best matches the meaning of the vocabulary word. Place the answer of your choice in the space provided.

### Exercise A

- |       |     |             |    |                                      |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | abase       | a. | sarcastically biting; acrid          |
| _____ | 2.  | abdicate    | b. | insensitive; stupid                  |
| _____ | 3.  | brazen      | c. | size or dimension                    |
| _____ | 4.  | caustic     | d. | to speak in a monotonous tone        |
| _____ | 5.  | commiserate | e. | to degrade; to humiliate             |
| _____ | 6.  | decorum     | f. | impressive; imposing                 |
| _____ | 7.  | deference   | g. | shameless; insolent                  |
| _____ | 8.  | drone       | h. | proper behavior; appropriate conduct |
| _____ | 9.  | enunciate   | i. | to express pity or sorrow            |
| _____ | 10. | girth       | j. | to pronounce clearly                 |
| _____ | 11. | grandiose   | k. | to renounce or to give up power      |
| _____ | 12. | obtuse      | l. | going along with wishes of another   |

### Exercise B

- |       |     |             |    |                                     |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | ineffable   | a. | fictitious story with a moral       |
| _____ | 2.  | nebulous    | b. | without a doubt                     |
| _____ | 3.  | neophyte    | c. | company of performers               |
| _____ | 4.  | inception   | d. | lacking clarity; hazy; indistinct   |
| _____ | 5.  | parable     | e. | a recent convert; beginner          |
| _____ | 6.  | rant        | f. | scholar; learned person             |
| _____ | 7.  | reproach    | g. | causing to appear useless or stupid |
| _____ | 8.  | savant      | h. | to rave                             |
| _____ | 9.  | stultifying | i. | brief outline of main points        |
| _____ | 10. | syllabus    | j. | uninteresting; dull; insipid        |
| _____ | 11. | troupe      | k. | to blame for something              |
| _____ | 12. | unequivocal | l. | beginning of something              |
| _____ | 13. | vapid       | m. | cannot be expressed in speech       |

## Lesson 24

### Sentence Completion



abase	abdicate	brazen	caustic
commiserate	decorum	deference	drone
enunciated	girth	grandiose	obtuse

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the gentleman was noticed by everyone; impeccable manners and proper behavior are signs of sophistication and good breeding.
2. The bitter woman deliberately set out to humiliate and \_\_\_\_\_ her husband in public
3. The king decided to \_\_\_\_\_ his throne when he realized that he was about to be overthrown; he thought that it was better to step down quietly than to endure a revolution.
4. In \_\_\_\_\_ to the woman's wishes, her husband sat quietly through the play even though he hated it; he was merely showing a high regard for her desires.
5. His snide remarks were \_\_\_\_\_ so clearly that they sounded ever more \_\_\_\_\_ and bitter than ever before.
6. It is easy to \_\_\_\_\_ with a dieter who has failed to reduce the size of his \_\_\_\_\_; that portion of the body generally spreads in middle age, and we all know the problems of trying to control weight.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ girl who wore the bikini to the wedding either does not know the rules of proper conduct or she does not care what people may think of her.
8. The teacher bored us all with the \_\_\_\_\_ of her monotonous voice.
9. The magnificent house was so \_\_\_\_\_ that we stood in awe as we looked at its massive structure and lavish decorations.
10. We did, indeed, hear the story, but only in the most \_\_\_\_\_, unclear terms; we did not, therefore, really understand.

## Lesson 24



inception	ineffable	nebulous	neophyte	parable
rant	reproach	savant	stultifying	syllabus
troupe	unequivocal	vapid		

11. The young \_\_\_\_\_ had barely begun to master the new skills; he was merely a novice, a beginner learning a new trade.
12. The scenic river presented an \_\_\_\_\_ sight to those writers who tried to describe it; sometimes it's impossible to find the words to express what one sees.
13. The student was so \_\_\_\_\_ and dim-witted that he had a \_\_\_\_\_ effect on the rest of the class, making them all appear stupid.
14. I was surprised that the leader of the theatrical \_\_\_\_\_ could lead such an interesting group while being so dull himself.
15. Although my father would mildly \_\_\_\_\_ me to correct my mistakes, he would never \_\_\_\_\_ at me the same way some parents yell at their children.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ uttered his scholarly words of wisdom to his followers so that they could understand, sometimes imparting them through a \_\_\_\_\_.
17. The teacher presented a \_\_\_\_\_ of the class on the first day; she wanted us to receive an outline of our assignments immediately.
18. We are seeking \_\_\_\_\_ support for this project; there can be no doubts about where one stands.
19. Because it was such a short time since the \_\_\_\_\_ of his training, his skills were still undeveloped; had he begun a month earlier, he would have been farther along.
20. We looked through the hazy windows at the \_\_\_\_\_, indistinct outlines of the figures outside.