

# Lesson 8

## Definitions



|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1.  | <b>acquiesce</b>  | AK wee es  | to give in, to comply                                       |
|   | Synonyms >>   | accede, agree, assent, consent, subscribe                |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | to object; to disagree                                   |   |
|   | I was so desperate that I had to acquiesce to his demands.  |  |   |
| 2.  | <b>affinity</b>   | uh FIN uh tee  | a likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship               |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | repulsion  |   |
|   | Having suffered himself, he felt an affinity for the homeless.  |  |   |
| 3.  | <b>blasphemous</b>  | BLAS fuh mus   | irreverent, profane   |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | sacred; reverent   |   |
|   | Telling that sacrilegious joke is blasphemous.  |  |   |
| 4.  | <b>buttress</b>   | BUH tris   | a support or prop   |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  |  |   |
|   | Many cathedrals are supported by buttresses.  |  |   |
| 5.  | <b>circumspect</b>  | SIR kum spekt  | careful to consider consequences, cautious, prudent         |
|   | Synonyms >>   | chary, wary  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | reckless; careless; indiscreet                           |   |
|   | Her circumspect behavior left no doubts as to her integrity.  |  |   |
| 6.  | <b>corroboration</b>  | kuh rob uh RAY shun                                      | confirmation  |
|   | Synonyms >>   | authentication, substantiation, validation, verification |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | refutation   |   |
|   | Fortunately, I had some corroboration for my whereabouts on the night of the crime.                     |  |   |
| 7.  | <b>deplete</b>  | deh PLETE  | to use up gradually, to lessen in amount or value           |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | to restore   |   |
|   | Our oil reserves have been depleted because of years of drilling and pumping.                           |  |   |
| 8.  | <b>despotic</b>   | deh SPOT ik  | ruling oppressively and absolutely; tyrannical              |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | ruling democratically                                    |   |
|   | Americans do not like despotic behavior.  |  |   |
| 9.  | <b>emaciated</b>  | eh MAY she ay tid  | very thin (usually as a result of starvation), wasting away |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | fat; corpulent   |   |
|   | As a result of receiving little food, most prisoners of concentration camps become extremely emaciated. |  |   |
| 10.   | <b>empirical</b>  | em PEER eh kul   | based on observation or experiment and not on theory        |
|   | Synonyms >>   |  |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | theoretical  |   |
|   | We need some empirical data to make our case solid.   |  |   |
| 11.   | <b>extraneous</b>   | ik STRAY nee us  | not essential or vital                                      |
|   | Synonyms >>   | alien, extrinsic, foreign                                |   |
|   | Antonym >>  | essential  |   |
|   | The extraneous assignments left the student with little time for himself.                               |  |   |
| Derivatives >> extraneously, extraneousness |   |  |   |

|     |                         |   |  |
|-----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 12. | <b>fallow</b>           | FAL ow  | inactive, plowed but not sowed                                 |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> active  |
|     |                         | In order for land to be productive, it must lie fallow occasionally.  |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | fallowness  |  |
| 13. | <b>homogeneous</b>      | hoe muh JEE nee us  | of the same kind   |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> heterogeneous                                       |
|     |                         | To get the best results with this research, we need a homogeneous group of people to fill out the questionnaire.    |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | homogeneously, homogeneousness  |  |
| 14. | <b>hyperbole</b>        | hi PER buh lee  | obvious exaggeration   |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> understatement                                      |
|     |                         | You have often heard the hyperbole "I've told you a million times;" it's an obvious exaggeration.                   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | hyperbolic, hyperbolically, hyperbolic, hyperbolism   |  |
| 15. | <b>incontrovertible</b> | in kon truh VUR tuh   | indisputable   |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> disputable; arguable                                |
|     |                         | The district attorney was looking for incontrovertible evidence to prove that the accused arsonist burned the bank. |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | incontrovertibly  |  |
| 16. | <b>irascible</b>        | uh RAS uh bul   | irritable, easily angered, cranky, cross                       |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> impassive; imperturbable                            |
|     |                         | Just about anything could set off his irascible temper.   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | irascibleness, irascibly, irascibility  |  |
| 17. | <b>laconic</b>          | luh KON ik  | using a minimum of words; concise to the point of seeming rude |
|     | Synonyms >>             | compendious, concise, pithy, succinct, summary, terse   | Antonym >> verbose   |
|     |                         | After the loss, the coach's remarks were laconic.   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | laconian, laconical, laconically, laconicism, laconism  |  |
| 18. | <b>magnanimity</b>      | mag nuh NIM eh tee  | having a lofty, generous, and courageous spirit                |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> greed; stinginess                                   |
|     |                         | The magnanimity of the king endeared him to his subjects.   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | magnanimous, magnanimously, magnanimousness   |  |
| 19. | <b>obsequious</b>       | ub SEE kwee us  | overly attentive, like a sycophant, servile                    |
|     | Synonyms >>             | slavish, subservient  | Antonym >> disinterested                                       |
|     |                         | I believe that his obsequious behavior toward his grandmother is to ensure being included in the will.              |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | obsequence, obsequent, obsequience, obsequiously, obsequiousness, obsequity   |  |
| 20. | <b>proliferation</b>    | pro lif uh RAY shun   | an increase in number, multiplication                          |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> decline; decrease                                   |
|     |                         | Many are afraid of nuclear proliferation and the possibility that a terrorist country will explode a bomb.          |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | proliferate, proliferative, proliferous, proliferously, prolific  |  |
| 21. | <b>scrupulous</b>       | SKROO pyuh lus  | very principled, very careful and conscientious                |
|     | Synonyms >>             | meticulous, punctilious   | Antonym >> unprincipled  |
|     |                         | The scrupulous police officer never took a bribe, and he ceaselessly tried to prevent crime.                        |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | scruple, scrupulosity, scrupulousness, scrupulously   |  |
| 22. | <b>sublime</b>          | suh BLIME   | exalted, noble, uplifting                                      |
|     | Synonyms >>             | resplendent, superb   | Antonym >>   |
|     |                         | The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music, and a beautiful setting, was simply sublime.        |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | sublimely, sublimeness, sublimer  |  |
| 23. | <b>surreptitious</b>    | sur up TISH us  | secret, clandestine, stealthy                                  |
|     | Synonyms >>             | covert, furtive, underhanded  | Antonym >> aboveboard; in an open manner                       |
|     |                         | The Watergate burglars tried to attain information in a surreptitious manner.                                       |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | surreptitiously   |  |
| 24. | <b>veracity</b>         | vuh RAS eh tee  | devotion to the truth  |
|     | Synonyms >>             | truthfulness, accuracy, correctness   | Antonym >>   |
|     |                         | The lawyer had no confidence in the veracity of the witness.  |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | veracious, veraciously, veraciousness   |  |
| 25. | <b>zeal</b>             | ZEEL  | enthusiasm, fervor   |
|     | Synonyms >>             |   | Antonym >> lack of enthusiasm                                  |
|     |                         | To the delight of his students, he brought great zeal to the teaching profession.                                   |  |
|     | Derivatives >>          | zeals, zealless, zealot, zealotic, zealotism, zealotry  |  |

## Lesson 8

### 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.  | acquiesce     | a. | irreverent; profane             |
| _____ | 2.  | affinity      | b. | confirmation; proof             |
| _____ | 3.  | blasphemous   | c. | wasted away; very thin          |
| _____ | 4.  | buttress      | d. | to use up gradually; to lessen  |
| _____ | 5.  | circumspect   | e. | based on observation            |
| _____ | 6.  | corroboration | f. | a support or prop               |
| _____ | 7.  | deplete       | g. | lofty, generous spirit          |
| _____ | 8.  | despotic      | h. | careful; cautious; prudent      |
| _____ | 9.  | emaciated     | i. | truthfulness                    |
| _____ | 10. | empirical     | j. | to give in; to comply; to agree |
| _____ | 11. | magnanimity   | k. | tyrannical; autocratic          |
| _____ | 12. | veracity      | l. | a natural liking or affection   |

### Exercise B

- |       |     |                  |    |                                |
|-------|-----|------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | fallow           | a. | obvious exaggeration           |
| _____ | 2.  | homogeneous      | b. | enthusiasm; fervor             |
| _____ | 3.  | hyperbole        | c. | very principled; moral         |
| _____ | 4.  | incontrovertible | d. | not essential or vital; extra  |
| _____ | 5.  | irascible        | e. | of the same kind               |
| _____ | 6.  | laconic          | f. | inactive; plowed but not sowed |
| _____ | 7.  | extraneous       | g. | increase in number             |
| _____ | 8.  | obsequious       | h. | irritable; easily angered      |
| _____ | 9.  | proliferation    | i. | lofty; noble; exalted          |
| _____ | 10. | scrupulous       | j. | overly attentive; servile      |
| _____ | 11. | sublime          | k. | secret; clandestine; stealthy  |
| _____ | 12. | surreptitious    | l. | concise; to the point; terse   |
| _____ | 13. | zeal             | m. | indisputable; cannot be argued |

# Lesson 8

## Sentence Completion



|             |               |             |          |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| acquiesce   | affinity      | blasphemous | buttress |
| circumspect | corroboration | deplete     | despotic |
| emaciated   | empirical     | extraneous  | fallow   |

1. In the absence of \_\_\_\_\_ evidence, evidence based on specific facts, we may have to theorize about the results of the data we have gathered.
2. None of the many parts were \_\_\_\_\_; if just one of the hundreds had been missing, the machine would not have worked.
3. The rich field had not been planted for two years; after this period of lying \_\_\_\_\_, the soil was even better than before.
4. However strong the \_\_\_\_\_ between two lovers, sometimes it is better for them to resist this attraction.
5. I depended upon my brother for \_\_\_\_\_ of my story to prove to my mother that I did not, in fact, break the vase.
6. Hitler's \_\_\_\_\_ rule was brought to an end after World War II.
7. The man saw that he was losing the argument and decided to \_\_\_\_\_ to his opponent's view.
8. The book was unjustly censured for containing what some people thought to be \_\_\_\_\_ remarks about the church.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ prisoner of war was near death as a result of his lack of nourishment.
10. The woman was characterized by her \_\_\_\_\_ behavior after her divorce; she was hesitant to trust anyone again after having been hurt so badly.
11. If I continue to withdraw my money and not replace it, I will \_\_\_\_\_ my savings account in another month.
12. In order to destroy the building, the charges were set beside the \_\_\_\_\_; if the support could be destroyed, the wall would fall easily.

## Lesson 8



|               |            |                  |            |         |
|---------------|------------|------------------|------------|---------|
| homogeneous   | hyperbole  | incontrovertible | irascible  | laconic |
| magnanimity   | obsequious | proliferation    | scrupulous | sublime |
| surreptitious | veracity   | zeal             |            |         |

13. He loves to use exaggeration; his favorite \_\_\_\_\_ is “I’m so hungry, I could eat a horse.”
14. We tried to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ grouping in the class; it is easier to teach when everyone in the room is at the same level.
15. The president’s \_\_\_\_\_ speech was brief, but to the point.
16. The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music and a beautiful setting was simply \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Their \_\_\_\_\_ meetings could not be discovered; they had taken great care to keep them secret.
18. He approached the task with great \_\_\_\_\_, anxious to get the job done well.
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ of insects in the garden was uncontrollable; they had already destroyed most of the vegetables and were still multiplying.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ child had absolutely no control over his temper and was always angry.
21. There was one man \_\_\_\_\_ enough to trust with the position; he alone had the integrity and the honesty to lead the people.
22. The waiter’s \_\_\_\_\_ manner ruined our meal; he would not leave us alone even for a minute because of his attentiveness.
23. Mother Theresa is known for her love and \_\_\_\_\_ toward the poor.
24. I do not doubt Tom’s \_\_\_\_\_, but I have some questions as to his brother’s devotion to the truth.
25. These facts are simply \_\_\_\_\_; they cannot be argued.