

Lesson 24

Definitions



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|-----|--------------------|---|---|------------|------------------------|
| 1. | abase | 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. | abdicate | 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. | brazen | BRAY zen | shameless, insolent, disrespectful | | |
| | Synonyms >> | | | Antonym >> | reserved; mild |
| | | Pinching that woman was a very brazen act. | | | |
| | Derivatives >> | brazenly, brazenness, brazenfaced | | | |
| 4. | caustic | 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. | commiserate | 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. | decorum | 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. | deference | 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. | drone | 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. | enunciate | 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. | girth | 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. | grandiose | 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 | | | |

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| 12. | inception | 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. | ineffable | 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. | nebulous | 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. | neophyte | 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. | obtuse | 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. | parable | 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. | rant | 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. | reproach | 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. | savant | 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. | stultifying | 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. | syllabus | 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. | troupe | TROOP | a company or group--usually theatrical performers |
| | Synonyms >> | | Antonym >> |
| | A Shakespeare troupe is coming to town to perform Macbeth. | | |
| | Derivatives >> | trouper | |
| 24. | unequivocal | 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. | vapid | 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 | |