

Lesson 1

1. Altruistic al tru IS tik unselfishly concerned for the welfare of other, generous
Antonym: belligerent; stingy; selfish
Nuns and nurses are usually very altruistic people since they seek ways to help people.
Derivatives: altruism, altruist, altruistically
2. Ambivalent am BIV uh lunt having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action
Synonyms: undecided Antonym: certain; firmly convinced
I am ambivalent about a permanent relationship with him, because I like him one day and don't the next.
Derivatives: ambivalence
3. Angular ANG gyuh ler lean; sharp cornered; gaunt
Antonym: rotund
The patient has lost so much weight that his face has become quite angular.
Derivatives: angulate, angularity, angulation, angulator
4. Arrogant Air uh gunt overbearingly assuming; insolently proud
Synonyms: presumptuous, haughty, imperious, brazen Antonym: meek, modest
Because the girl was so arrogant, she had few friends.
Derivatives: arrogance, arrogancy, arrogantly
5. Aversion uh VER sion strong disinclination, disliking
Synonyms: hesitance, loathing, reluctance Antonym: inclination
I have an aversion to getting married.
Derivatives: averseness, aversely, averse
6. Discern deh SURN to differentiate between two or more things
Antonym: to ignore; to be oblivious
Because of the fog, I was barely able to discern the landing strip.
Derivatives: discerner, discernable, discernible, discernibleness, discernibly, discernably, discerningly, discernment
7. Disdain dis DANE intense dislike; to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy
Synonyms: (to be) arrogant, haughty, high-handed, insolent, lordly Antonym: favor, admiration; to love
Never having to do manual labor, he disdained the idea of becoming a cotton picker.
Derivatives: disdained, disdaining, disdainer, disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness
8. Disparage de SPAR ij to degrade, to speak of someone or something in a derogatory manner
Synonyms: belittle, decry, deprecate Antonym: to praise profusely
His disparaging remarks about me caused the committee to give the job to another person.
Derivatives: disparagement, disparager, disparagingly
9. Disparity deh SPAR eh tee inequality, the condition or fact of being unequal in age, rank, or degree
Antonym: similarity
The couple got married even though there was a great disparity in their ages.
Derivatives: disparate, disparately, disparateness, disparatum
10. Embellish em BEL ish to decorate, to make beautiful with ornamentation
Synonyms: deck, garnish, ornament, adorn Antonym: to abbreviate
He would embellish his narratives with anecdotes about famous people.
Derivatives: embellisher, embellishment
11. Engender en JEN der to cause, to produce, to create
Antonym: to squelch
His angry words engendered strife in his relationship with his wife.
Derivatives: engendered, engenderer, engenders, engendering
12. Innocuous eh NOK yoo us harmless, producing no injury

The meeting lasted so long because many superfluous comments by some of the speakers.

Derivatives: superfluously, superfluosness, superfluent, superfluity

25. Taciturn

TAS eh turn

quiet, not verbose

Synonyms: reserved, reticent

Antonym: loquacious; talkative

A shy person is usually taciturn.

Derivatives: tacit, tacitly, tacitness, taciturnity, taciturnly