

Lesson 2

1. Antithesis an TI thuh sis a direct opposite, a contrast
Antonym: duplicate; same
Good is the antithesis of evil.
Derivatives: antithetic, antithetical, antithetically
2. Ascend uh SEND to move upward, to rise from a lower station
Antonym: to descend; to go down
The climbers ascended the mountain.
Derivatives: ascendancy, ascendance, ascendant, ascension, ascending, ascended
3. Austere aw STEER strict, stern; unadorned, ascetic
Synonyms: severe Antonym: indulgent
Pioneers usually led an austere existence.
Derivatives: austereness, austere, austerity
4. Autonomous aw TON uh muhs independent, self-contained
Antonym: dependent
One who is autonomous needs no help from others.
Derivatives: autonomic, autonomously, autonomy, autonomist
5. Banal BANE ul, buh NAL common, ordinary, lacking freshness, hackneyed
Synonyms: inane, insipid, jejune, vapid Antonym: fresh, unique, extraordinary
Because of his use of overused trite remarks, his speeches are banal.
Derivatives: banality, banally
6. Benign buh NINE not causing harm, of gentle disposition, beneficial
Antonym: malignant, harmful
The minister was loved because of his benign attitude toward all types of people.
Derivatives: benignly, benignant, benignancy, benignantly, benignity
7. Capricious kuh PRISH us changing suddenly, fickle
Synonyms: inconstant, mercurial, unstable Antonym: stable
Her capricious moods are difficult to anticipate.
Derivatives: caprice, capriciously, capriciousness
8. Dawdle DOD ul To waste time, to spend time idly, to move in a
lackadaisical manner
Synonyms: dally, loiter, procrastinate Antonym: to rush
Since we have a deadline, do not dawdle over your work.
Derivatives: dawdled, dawdling
9. Defamation def uh MAY shun act of harming or ruining another's reputation
Antonym: adulation
The defamation of another's character is a horrible thing.
Derivatives: defamatory, defame, defamed, defamer, defamingly
10. Esoteric es uh TER ik understood only by a small group or a select few
Antonym: obvious
The English teachers were having an esoteric discussion about the correct usage of some obscure word.
Derivatives: esoterical, esoterically, esotericism, esotericist, esoterism, esotery
11. Exacerbate ig ZAS ur bate to aggravate, to irritate, to vex
Antonym: to ameliorate, to soothe
You will only exacerbate the situation if you try to call her.
Derivatives: exacerbatingly, exacerbation
12. Extol ik STOLE to praise, to glorify
Antonym: to defame
The teacher would always extol students who tried to do their best.
Derivatives: extolled, extolling, extollingly, extolment, extoller

25. Venerate VEN uh rate to honor, to revere

Synonyms: adore, worship

Although I did not always agree with President Kennedy, I venerate his memory.

Derivatives: veneration, venerational, venerator, venerable, venerability