

Lesson 3

1. Abstruse ab STRUSE difficult to understand, recondite, concealed
Synonyms: complex, complicated, intricate, knotty Antonym: readily understood; clear
Some concepts of Einstein were so abstruse that many physicists could not understand them.
Derivatives: abstrusely, abstruseness
2. Affable AF uh bul friendly, courteous, amiable
Synonyms: cordial, genial, gracious, sociable Antonym: surly; aloof; unfriendly
He had a very affable nature, always saying "Hello" to everyone.
Derivatives: affability, affableness, affably
3. Audacity aw DAS uh tee excessive boldness, rashness, daring
Synonyms: cheek, chutzpah, effrontery, gall, hardihood, temerity Antonym: meekness
I was surprised that he had the audacity to approach the Queen.
Derivatives: audacious, audaciousness, audaciously
4. Contrite kun TRITE extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant
Synonyms: penitent Antonym: unrepentant
Her contrite tears were not enough to convince her father not to spank her for her disobedience.
Derivatives: contritely, contriteness, contrition
5. Credulous KREJ uh lus believing on slight evidence, gullible
Antonym: suspicious
Because the lady's horoscope said that she should stay inside, the credulous woman did not go to work.
Derivatives: credulously, credulousness, credulity
6. Depravity deh PRAV eh tee moral corruption, a wicked or perverse act
Synonyms: abasement, corruption, debasement, debauchery Antonym: noble behavior
The depravity of his behavior shocked everyone.
Derivatives: deprave, depraver, depravement, depraved
7. Deprecate DEP ruh kate to disapprove regretfully, to belittle, to express mild disapproval
Antonym: to endorse
Do not deprecate her unless you fully understand her situation.
Derivatives: deprecating, deprecatingly, deprecative, deprecatory, deprecated, deprecating
8. Didactic die DAK tik instructive, designed to teach
Antonym: uninformative
Because of the coach's didactic approach, his players learned many blocking techniques.
Derivatives: didactical, didacticism, didactic, didactically
9. Dormant DOR munt inactive, sleeping
Synonyms: abeyant, latent, quiescent Antonym: active
Most flowers remain dormant in the winter and bloom in the spring.
Derivatives: dormancy
10. Enigmatic en ig MAT ik mysterious, inexplicable, puzzling
Synonyms: abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, equivocal, obscure Antonym: clear
The disappearance of Amelia Earhart is an enigma to this day.
Derivatives: enigma, enigmatical, enigmatically, enigmatize
11. Erudite ER yoo dite scholarly
Antonym: ignorant
The erudite physics professor had spent many years studying the theory of relativity
Derivatives: eruditely, erudition
12. Exotic ig ZOT ik foreign, unfamiliar
Antonym: native
The circus features exotic animals from Africa.
Derivatives: exotical, exoticalness, exotically, exotica, exoticism, exoticist

13. Fuse FYOOZ to mix or join (usually by melting)
 Synonyms: amalgamate, blend, coalesce, commingle, merge, mingle Antonym: to divide
 Zinc and copper can be fused into hard, bright brass.
 Derivatives: fused, fusing, fuses, fusibility, fusible
14. Immutable ey MYOO tub bul unchanging
 Antonym: fickle
 Her love for her husband was immutable.
 Derivatives: immutability, immutableness, immutably
15. Incurable in KOR eh juh bul incapable of being reformed or improved
 Antonym: amenable to improvement
 He was expelled from school because of his incurable conduct.
 Derivatives: incurability, incurableness, incurably
16. Loathe LOETH to detest
 Synonyms: abhor, abominate Antonym: to adore
 The fact that I loathe your brother does not mean that we cannot be friends.
 Derivatives: loathful, loathing, loathingly, loathness, loathsome
17. Mitigate MIT uh gate to cause to become less harsh or hostile; to make less severe
 Synonyms: allay, alleviate, assuage, lighten Antonym: to intensify; to aggravate
 He apologized in order to mitigate her dislike for him.
 Derivatives: mitigation, mitigatedly, mitigative, mitigator, mitigatory
18. Nullify NUL eh fie to cause not to be in effect, to negate
 Synonyms: abrogate, annul, invalidate Antonym: to make effective
 I am seeking to nullify the contract because he has not complied with it.
 Derivatives: nullified, nullifying, nullification, nullificationist, nullificator, nullifier
19. Pacifistic pas uh FIS tik opposed to war or use of force
 Synonyms: appeased, conciliated, mollified, placated, propitiated Antonym: martial
 The man refused to fight because of his pacifistic beliefs.
 Derivatives: pacifist, pacifier, pacifism, pacifistically, pacify
20. Pretentious preh TEN shus making an extravagant outward show, self-important
 Synonyms: ostentatious Antonym: meek; humble; shy
 Isn't it a little pretentious to spend two million dollars on a wedding?
 Derivatives: pretension, pretention, pretensionless, pretensive, pretentiously, pretentiousness
21. Prologue PRO log introductory remarks in a speech, play, or literary work,
 introductory action
 The play had a prologue that set the scene for the opening act.
 Derivatives: prologist, prologize
22. Recant reh KANT to withdraw or to repudiate a statement or belief, revoke
 Synonyms: abjure, forswear, renounce, retract Antonym: to avow; to reaffirm belief
 The prosecutor's case was greatly weakened when his main witness recanted his testimony.
 Derivatives: recantation, recanter
23. Servile SUR vil, SUR vile overly submissive
 Synonyms: obsequious, slavish, subservient Antonym: authoritative
 Having complete devotion and submissiveness for the sheik, the women of the harem were very servile.
 Derivatives: servilely, servilism, servility, servitude
24. Trepidation trep eh DAY shun fear, trembling, agitation
 Antonym: fearlessness
 Since I did not have time to study, I have a lot of trepidation about this examination.
 Derivatives: trepidate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity

25. Vilify VIL eh fie to malign, to defame, to utter abusive statements against
Synonyms: asperse, calumniate, denigrate, traduce Antonym: to praise, to
acclaim
It is not right to vilify someone just because he disagrees with you.
Derivatives: vilification, vilifier, vilifying, vilifyingly