

Lesson 14

Definitions

10th Grade



1.	ameliorate	uh MEE lee o rate	to make better, to relieve, to improve
	Synonyms >>		
	Social workers attempt to ameliorate the conditions of people living in the slum areas.		
	Derivatives >>	ameliorated, ameliorating, ameliorable, ameliorant, ameliorative, ameliorator, amelioration	
2.	amenable	uh MEN uh bul	open to or willing to follow advice or suggestion, tractable, malleable
	Synonyms >>	docile, obedient	
	Since I like him and usually agree with him, I am always amenable to listening to his ideas.		
	Derivatives >>	amenability, amenableness, amenably	
3.	amorphous	uh MOR fuss	shapeless, having no definite form
	Synonyms >>		
	In the science fiction movie, the amorphous mass terrorized the town.		
	Derivatives >>	amorphously, amorphousness, amorphism	
4.	buoyant	BOY unt	capable of floating; cheerful
	Synonyms >>		
	Because the log was buoyant, it stayed afloat. The girl's buoyant spirit made her pleasant company.		
	Derivatives >>	buoyancy, buoyance, buoyantly, buoyantness, buoy	
5.	cajole	kuh JOLE	to persuade with deliberate flattery, to coax, to wheedle
	Synonyms >>		
	I will not be cajoled into allowing you to stay up past your bedtime.		
	Derivatives >>	cajoled, cajoling, cajolery, cajoleries, cajolement, cajoler	
6.	debase	deh BASE	to reduce in dignity or quality
	Synonyms >>	abase, corrupt, debauch, demean, deprave, pervert, vitiate	
	Do not debase yourself by swearing.		
	Derivatives >>	debased, debasing, debasement, debaser, debasingly	
7.	denotation	dee no TAY shun	the strict, literal, dictionary definition of a word devoid of any emotion
	Synonyms >>		
	The denotation of that word is easily to understand since we can find it in the dictionary.		
	Derivatives >>		
8.	efface	eh FASE	to erase, to wear away
	Synonyms >>		
	The date on the coin has been effaced.		
	Derivatives >>	effaceable, effacement, effacer	
9.	elucidate	eh LOO seh date	to make clear, to explain
	Synonyms >>	explicate, expound	
	I will try to elucidate some of the important changes in the tax code.		
	Derivatives >>	elucidation, elucidative, elucidatory, elucidator	
10.	volatile	VOL uh til	quickly changeable, easily vaporized
	Synonyms >>		
	Because of his volatile temper, one must use caution in dealing with him.		
	Derivatives >>	volatileness, volatility, volatilization, volatilizable, volatilize	

Matching Test

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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. | ameliorate | a. | quickly changeable, easily vaporized |
| _____ | 2. | amenable | b. | capable of floating; cheerful |
| _____ | 3. | amorphous | c. | to reduce in dignity or quality |
| _____ | 4. | buoyant | d. | to persuade with deliberate flattery, to coax, to wheedle |
| _____ | 5. | cajole | e. | to make clear, to explain |
| _____ | 6. | debase | f. | shapeless, having no definite form |
| _____ | 7. | denotation | g. | willing to follow advice or suggestion, tractable, malleable |
| _____ | 8. | efface | h. | to make better, to relieve, to improve |
| _____ | 9. | elucidate | i. | to erase, to wear away |
| _____ | 10. | volatile | j. | the strict, literal, dictionary definition of a word, devoid of any emotion, attitude, or color |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|---|
| _____ | 1. | archaic | a. | exceptionally early in development or occurrence |
| _____ | 2. | assuage | b. | ordinary, commonplace |
| _____ | 3. | connotation | c. | to ease, to mitigate, to make less painful or burdensome |
| _____ | 4. | debilitate | d. | exaggerated show of dignity or self-importance, bombastic |
| _____ | 5. | euphemism | e. | unreasonable touchiness or irritability |
| _____ | 6. | mundane | f. | to weaken, to enfeeble |
| _____ | 7. | petulance | g. | to malign, to defame, to utter abusive statements against |
| _____ | 8. | pompous | h. | substitution of an inoffensive term for one that is offensive |
| _____ | 9. | precocious | i. | antiquated, old, out of use |
| _____ | 10. | vilify | j. | the nonliteral, associative meaning of a word; the implied or suggested meaning |

Sentence Completion Test

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ameliorate	amenable	amorphous	buoyant	cajole
debase	denotation	efface	elucidate	volatile

1. Even though water was leaking in at an alarming rate, the vessel surprisingly remained _____.
2. The students were _____ to listening to the unbiased and usually helpful ideas of their teacher; they enjoyed what he had to say.
3. The _____ temper of the man caused him to explode in anger at the slightest provocation.
4. In the science fiction movie, the _____ mass terrorized the town; the giant amoeba consumed whatever it encircled.
5. Because constant handling will eventually _____ the intricate designs of the sculpture, the owner has placed it in a protective glass case.
6. The governor tried to _____ the conditions that had caused inflation to soar.
7. My teacher expected me to _____ the point and to make the thesis clear in my essay.
8. The child tried to _____ his mother into giving him another piece of candy; she was frequently unable to stand up to his persuasion.
9. In the early Puritan days of this country, the scaffold was used to publicly humiliate and _____ a person.
10. If you do not understand the _____ of that word, look at the definition in the dictionary. It should be taken very literally.

Sentence Completion Test

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acrimonious	archaic	assuage	daunted	dissemination
euphemism	pompous	precocious	slothful	virulent

11. The ex-spouses seldom talked to each other, and when they did, they used caustic, _____ language that expressed their anger.
12. We were all sick of his _____ attitude of thinking that he was so much better than the rest of us.
13. The _____ child began to read before the age of five and was always several years ahead of his peers.
14. Several types of medicine were prescribed in order to stop the _____ , deadly infection.
15. It took the _____ girl three hours to clean her room; she had left it cluttered for so long that it was a wonder she finished in only three hours.
16. Instead of the word “dying,” many people use the _____ “passing away.”
17. If I want immediate _____ of information, I will tell a well-known gossip who will quickly scatter the news.
18. Even in the midst of the terrible storm, the people maintained a spirit that could not be _____; they simply refused to lose hope.
19. Words such as “thou,” which are no longer part of normal vocabulary, are _____.
20. Aspirin will surely _____ the pain of my toothache; I need something to lessen my suffering.