

Lesson 18

Definitions

10th Grade



1.	infamous	IN fuh mus	having a reputation of the worst kind, vicious, notoriously bad
	Synonyms >>	disreputable, ignominious	
	The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was an infamous act.		
	Derivatives >>	infamously, infamy, infamies	
2.	insolence	IN suh luns	insulting or contemptuous behavior
	Synonyms >>	arrogance, haughtiness, high-handedness, impertinence	
	His insolence and lack of respect for his mother are shocking.		
	Derivatives >>	insolent, insolently, insolency, insolentness	
3.	levity	LEV eh tee	excessive frivolity, flippancy
	Synonyms >>		
	It was inappropriate for him to insert some levity into the funeral service.		
	Derivatives >>	levitate, levitation, levitated, levitational, levitative, levitating	
4.	oblivion	uh BLIV ee un	state of being forgotten
	Synonyms >>		
	Until the singer's recent hit, his career had fallen into a state of oblivion.		
	Derivatives >>	oblivious, obliviously	
5.	paradoxical	pair uh DOKS uh kul	something that appears false or contradictory but is actually correct
	Synonyms >>		
	It is paradoxical that a man from the South, Lyndon Johnson, led the fight for the passage of a civil rights bill.		
	Derivatives >>	paradoxicality, paradoxicalness, paradoxology, paradoxality	
6.	perjury	PUR juh ree	false testimony under oath
	Synonyms >>		
	He was charged with perjury for lying to the grand jury.		
	Derivatives >>	perjure, perjured, perjuring, perjurer, perjurious, perjuriouly, perjuriousness, perjurous	
7.	rancor	RANG kur	bitter deep-seated ill will, enmity
	Synonyms >>	animosity, animus, antagonism, antipathy, hostility	
	I was full of rancor when I learned that the men had killed my parents.		
	Derivatives >>	rancored, rancorous, rancorously	
8.	sycophant	SIK uh funt	a self-serving flatterer, a brownnoser
	Synonyms >>	leech, sponge, toady	
	A wise ruler will not pay attention to the many sycophants who will try to gain his attention.		
	Derivatives >>	sycophancy, sycophantic, sycophantical, sycophantically, sycophantize, sycophantish, sycophantishly	
9.	vacillating	VAS uh lay ting	changing, fluctuating
	Synonyms >>		
	I have vacillating opinions concerning my future career.		
	Derivatives >>	vacillate, vacillatingly, vacillation, vacillatory, vacillator	
10.	vivid	VIV id	bright, distinct, and clear
	Synonyms >>	graphic	
	I have vivid memories of my trip to Europe.		
	Derivatives >>	vividly, vividness, vividity, vivific, vivificate, vivification, vivifier, vivify	

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. | infamous | a. | a self-serving flatterer, a brownnoser |
| _____ | 2. | insolence | b. | false testimony under oath |
| _____ | 3. | levity | c. | insulting or contemptuous behavior |
| _____ | 4. | oblivion | d. | changing, fluctuating |
| _____ | 5. | paradoxical | e. | bright, distinct, and clear |
| _____ | 6. | perjury | f. | bitter deep-seated ill will, enmity |
| _____ | 7. | rancor | g. | something that appears false but is actually correct |
| _____ | 8. | sycophant | h. | excessive frivolity, flippancy |
| _____ | 9. | vacillating | i. | having a reputation of the worst kind; notoriously bad |
| _____ | 10. | vivid | j. | state of being forgotten |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|---|
| _____ | 1. | arable | a. | lacking in seriousness or importance |
| _____ | 2. | ascendancy | b. | the major category into which a literary work fits |
| _____ | 3. | clandestine | c. | patience, lenience |
| _____ | 4. | cursory | d. | to free, to disentangle |
| _____ | 5. | diction | e. | superficial, casual, hastily done |
| _____ | 6. | extricate | f. | fit for plowing, tillable |
| _____ | 7. | forbearance | g. | secret |
| _____ | 8. | frivolous | h. | domination; growing power |
| _____ | 9. | genre | i. | style of writing dependent upon choice of words |
| _____ | 10. | inane | j. | silly, insipid; lacking significance, meaning, or point |

Sentence Completion Test

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infamous	insolence	levity	oblivion	paradoxical
perjury	rancor	sycophant	vacillating	vivid

1. Fortunately, the leader was not swayed by the flattery of the _____, and the group was able to hold together.
2. The _____ in the man's heart must be great if it leads him to hate so intensely someone who has merely insulted him; such bitterness and deep-seated ill will is horrible.
3. The pictures were so _____ and distinct that it was almost like seeing the scene in person.
4. She keeps _____ in her opinion of the man; one day she likes him, but the next day she doesn't.
5. We were shocked by the man's apparent _____ concerning the situation, but we later realized how seriously earnest he was in spite of his flippancy.
6. He was charged with _____ for lying to the grand jury.
7. He is considered an _____ traitor due to his disgraceful acts.
8. The teacher found the boy's _____ to be both insulting and contemptible.
9. The liberal politician's support for the death penalty is _____ since it seems to contradict all that he has previously endorsed.
10. The man was so senile that most of the time he existed in a state of _____, not knowing anything.

Sentence Completion Test

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clandestine	cursory	derision	diction	enmity
forbearance	frivolous	languid	oblique	penitent

11. Deep-seated _____ and ill will caused the man to be bitter and antagonistic; indeed, he continued to hate the woman until he died.
12. He seems to like _____ girls; seriousness and intelligence in a woman apparently intimidate him.
13. The teacher showed _____ toward the student's poor performance by being patient.
14. When the man made his proposal to the crowd, he was met with _____ and ridicule.
15. The meaning of the note was hidden to a _____ reading but was revealed after a more careful examination.
16. _____ activities are always an important part of secret groups such as the FBI and the CIA.
17. Only after he had become truly _____ was he able to ask for forgiveness.
18. Evasive, devious and misleading, her testimony was _____, full of answers that sought not to inform, but to deceive.
19. The man's _____ tone sounded like an old, weary traveler looking for a resting place.
20. The author's _____ sets a dreary mood when he uses words like "melancholy" and "bleak."