

Lesson 23

Definitions

12th Grade



1.	acrid	AK rid	caustic, bitter, harsh (relates sometimes to taste and smell)
	Synonyms >>	caustic, mordant, scathing	
	The acrid odor in the restaurant caused me to leave.		
	Derivatives >>	acridity, acridness, acridly	
2.	baleful	BALE ful	destructive, deadly
	Synonyms >>	malign, sinister	
	War is a baleful experience for many.		
	Derivatives >>	bale, balefully, balefulness	
3.	cataclysm	KAT uh kliz um	an event or situation that causes a momentous change or upheaval
	Synonyms >>	calamity, catastrophe	
	The San Francisco earthquake was a cataclysmic event.		
	Derivatives >>	cataclysmic, cataclysmal	
4.	catharsis	kuh THAR sis	a purification or purging of emotions that brings about spiritual renewal
	Synonyms >>		
	The child had so many repressed emotions that a catharsis was needed to restore his normal state of mind.		
	Derivatives >>	catharses, cathartic, cathartically	
5.	dogma	DOG muh	a system of beliefs or principles
	Synonyms >>		
	The foreigner was anxious to learn the dogma of the church since he had never been exposed to it.		
	Derivatives >>	dogmatic	
6.	edifice	ED uh fis	a very large building
	Synonyms >>		
	This particular edifice has the title of being the tallest building in the world.		
	Derivatives >>		
7.	enumerate	eh NOO muh rate	to count one by one
	Synonyms >>		
	In his summation, my lawyer enumerated all of the reasons why I should receive a verdict of "not guilty."		
	Derivatives >>	enumeration, enumerative, enumerator	
8.	grate	GRATE	to cause irritation
	Synonyms >>		
	Her acrimonious comments grate on my nerves.		
	Derivatives >>	grated, grating, grater	
9.	inertia	in UR shuh	resistance to motion or action
	Synonyms >>		
	In order to move, a force must first overcome a body's initial inertia.		
	Derivatives >>	inert, inertial, inertion, inertness, inertly	
10.	inordinate	in OR duh nit	exceeding reasonable limits, excessive
	Synonyms >>	exorbitant, extravagant, extreme, immoderate	
	It is a sign of trouble when a student has an inordinate number of absences.		
	Derivatives >>	inordinately, inordinateness, inordination	

Matching Test

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12th grade



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. | acid | a. | caustic, bitter (relates sometimes to taste and smell) |
| _____ | 2. | acuity | b. | destructive, deadly |
| _____ | 3. | baleful | c. | sharpness of perception |
| _____ | 4. | burly | d. | a purging of emotions that brings about spiritual renewal |
| _____ | 5. | cataclysm | e. | a very large building |
| _____ | 6. | catharsis | f. | great in bodily size, sturdy; brusque |
| _____ | 7. | coagulate | g. | to gather together in a mass, to clot; to congeal |
| _____ | 8. | dogma | h. | to count one by one |
| _____ | 9. | edifice | i. | an event that causes a momentous change or upheaval |
| _____ | 10. | enumerate | j. | a system of beliefs or principles |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------------|----|--|
| _____ | 1. | grate | a. | a beginner |
| _____ | 2. | inertia | b. | resentment, irritation |
| _____ | 3. | inordinate | c. | preference, natural inclination |
| _____ | 4. | insidious | d. | resistance to a change of motion or action |
| _____ | 5. | maudlin | e. | treacherous or dangerous in a secret sort of way |
| _____ | 6. | myopic | f. | unable to discern or think clearly; shortsighted |
| _____ | 7. | novice | g. | exceeding reasonable limits, excessive |
| _____ | 8. | pique | h. | to cause irritation |
| _____ | 9. | propensity | i. | overly sentimental |
| _____ | 10. | soothsayer | j. | a person who is able to predict the future, seer |

Sentence Completion Test

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acrid	baleful	cataclysmic	catharsis	dogma
edifice	enumerate	grate	inertia	inordinate

1. His tears acted as a _____, cleansing the emotions of the lonely man.
2. The religious _____ was upheld by members of the congregation; their beliefs were fundamental and very important to them all.
3. The crowd gathered in front of the building to protest, but the _____ was completely surrounded by guards.
4. Most Californians would prefer the minor damage associated with many mild earthquakes to the _____ destruction associated with one major upheaval.
5. The chemical became bitter and _____ when the additional substance was added to it.
6. The _____ winds took yet another life as the tornado struck another row of houses.
7. The doctor said that my _____ consumption of food was much greater than was good for my health.
8. In order to move this object, you must first apply a force strong enough to overcome its _____, the property that makes it resistant to motion.
9. The irritating sounds of the child's screaming began to _____ on my nerves and drove me to distraction.
10. The teacher asked the student to _____ all the ways he had been helped; as the student counted the ways, another child recorded them.

Sentence Completion Test

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acuity	burly	coagulate	insidious	maudlin
myopic	novice	pique	propensity	soothsayer

11. The girl was a _____ in the class, but even a beginner should know more than what she did.
12. The king should have listened to the _____; although the prophet foretold his future, the warning was not heeded.
13. The _____ clown made fun of emotional people by acting overly sentimental.
14. The girl has a _____ for helping others in need; her natural inclinations for serving others would be of benefit in the field of nursing.
15. After Mary heard the horrid things that Alex had said about her, she showed her _____ by not speaking to him; her irritation and resentment were obvious to everyone.
16. I was shocked when I found the _____ man at my door; his great bodily size and brusque manner alarmed me at first.
17. The wise man saw the situation with _____; his sharp perception always added to his wisdom.
18. The doctor insisted that the blood not be allowed to _____; he did not want a blood clot forming and endangering the man's life.
19. The _____ work of a con man often leaves gullible people secretly tricked out of their life savings.
20. It is because of her _____ vision that she cannot get out of her predicament; she can see only one course of action.