

Lesson 31

Definitions

12th Grade



1.	abdicate	AB duh kayt	to renounce or to give up a power
	Synonyms >>		
	In order to marry the commoner, the king had to abdicate his throne.		
	Derivatives >>	abdicable, abdicative, abdicator, abdicated, abdicating	
2.	brazen	BRAY zen	shameless, insolent, disrespectful
	Synonyms >>		
	Pinching that woman was a very brazen act.		
	Derivatives >>	brazenly, brazenness, brazenfaced	
3.	caustic	KAW stik	sarcastically biting, acrid
	Synonyms >>	mordant, scathing	
	Critics are known for their caustic remarks about movies that they do not like.		
	Derivatives >>	caustically, causticity	
4.	commiserate	kuh MIZ uh rate	to express sympathy or pity
	Synonyms >>		
	I commiserated with the family about their loss.		
	Derivatives >>	commiserated, commiserating, commiseration, commiseratively, commiserative	
5.	decorum	deh KOR um	appropriate conduct, correct and proper behavior
	Synonyms >>		
	The students' decorum at the dance was excellent.		
	Derivatives >>	decorous, decorously, decorousness	
6.	prudent	PROOD unt	wise and careful about practical matters
	Synonyms >>	judicious, sage, sane, sapient	
	In the city, it is prudent to have locks on all doors and windows.		
	Derivatives >>	prudence, prudential, prudently	
7.	pulverize	PUL vuh rize	to reduce into small pieces, to demolish
	Synonyms >>		
	The rocks were pulverized by the heavy machine rolling over them.		
	Derivatives >>	pulverization, pulverized, pulverizer, pulverous, pulverulent, pulverulently	
8.	recapitulation	ree kuh pich uh LAY	a summary
	Synonyms >>		
	It is usually a good idea for a teacher to give a recapitulation of the previous day's topics.		
	Derivatives >>	recapitulate, recapitulationist, recapitulative, recapitulatory, recapitulatively	
9.	steadfastness	STED fas nes	quality of being fixed with little chance of moving or changing
	Synonyms >>	resolution, staunchness	
	The steadfastness of her position not to sell her land is remarkable considering what she has been offered.		
	Derivatives >>	steadfast, steadfastly	
10.	tactile	TAK til	perceptible by touch; capable of being felt
	Synonyms >>	tangible	
	The woman's stroke left her with no tactile sensations at all.		
	Derivatives >>	tactilist, tactility, taction	

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. | abdicate | a. | courteous going along with the wishes of another |
| _____ 2. | arcane | b. | appropriate conduct, correct and proper behavior |
| _____ 3. | atone | c. | sarcastically biting, acrid |
| _____ 4. | brazen | d. | secret, mysterious |
| _____ 5. | caustic | e. | shameless, insolent, disrespectful |
| _____ 6. | commiserate | f. | impressive, imposing |
| _____ 7. | decorum | g. | to interfere with or to obstruct the progress |
| _____ 8. | deference | h. | to make amends |
| _____ 9. | grandiose | i. | to express sympathy or pity |
| _____ 10. | impede | j. | to renounce or to give up a power |

Exercise B

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----|---|
| _____ 1. | ineffable | a. | incapable of being expressed in speech or words |
| _____ 2. | neophyte | b. | wise and careful about practical matters |
| _____ 3. | obtuse | c. | perceptible by touch; capable of being felt |
| _____ 4. | prudent | d. | dull of mind, insensitive, stupid |
| _____ 5. | pulverize | e. | dull, inane, insipid |
| _____ 6. | recapitulation | f. | quality of being fixed with little chance of changing |
| _____ 7. | reproach | g. | to reduce into small pieces, to demolish |
| _____ 8. | steadfastness | h. | to blame for something; a disgrace |
| _____ 9. | tactile | i. | a recent convert, beginner, novice |
| _____ 10. | vapid | j. | a summary |

Sentence Completion Test

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abdicate	brazen	caustic	commiserate	decorum
prudent	pulverize	recapitulation	steadfastness	tactile

1. It is a good idea to have a _____ of the day's activities before class is over; a summary reinforces the main idea from the lecture.
2. The _____ of the gentleman was noticed by everyone; impeccable manners and proper behavior are signs of sophistication and good breeding.
3. Those deprived of sight may still read Braille by using the _____ sense in their fingertips.
4. Her _____ was remarkable; she simply refused to change or to be easily upset.
5. His snide remarks were enunciated so clearly that they sounded even more _____ and bitter than ever before.
6. The _____ girl who wore the bikini to the wedding either does not know the rules of proper conduct or she does not care what people may think of her.
7. It is easy to _____ with a dieter who has failed to reduce the size of his girth; that portion of the body generally spreads in middle age, and we all know the problems of trying to control weight.
8. We used a food processor to _____ the oranges, grinding them into small bits.
9. The king decided to _____ his throne when he realized that he was about to be overthrown; he thought that it was better to step down quietly than to endure a revolution.
10. Sara is always _____ and careful when she invests her money.

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arcane	atone	deference	grandiose	impede
ineffable	neophyte	obtuse	reproach	vapid

11. The young _____ had barely begun to master the new skills; he was merely a novice, a beginner learning a new trade.
12. In _____ to the woman's wishes, her husband sat quietly through the play even though he hated it; he was merely showing a high regard for her desires.
13. We did, indeed, hear the story, but only in the most _____, unclear terms; we did not, therefore, really understand.
14. The magnificent house was so _____ that we stood in awe as we looked at its massive structure and lavish decorations.
15. The scenic river presented an _____ sight to those writers who tried to describe it; sometimes it's impossible to find the words to express what one sees.
16. The student was so _____ and dim-witted that he had a stultifying effect on the rest of the class, making them all appear stupid.
17. Among the artifacts found in the tomb were several cups bearing mysterious, _____ writings.
18. Although my father would mildly _____ me to correct my mistakes, he would never rant at me the same way some parents yell at their children.
19. I will not attempt to _____ your progress on the test; you may work as quickly or as slowly as you wish without any interference from me.
20. The wealthy old man hoped to _____ for his life of stinginess by giving money to the poor.