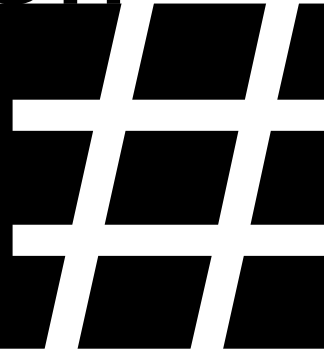


Lesson



brusque (adj.)

definition: slightly rude in speech or manner

synonym: **abrupt/short**

antonym: **warm/encouraging**

sentence: My grandfather can be brusque and impatient.

hone (verb)

definition: to make more pointed

synonym: sharpen/edge

antonym: dull/lessen

sentence: My appetite was honed by fresh air and exercise.

espouse (verb)

definition: to support

synonym: defend/champion

antonym: forsake/reject

sentence: The politician espoused the president's opinions and worked to help get the bill passed.

odious (adj.)

definition: extremely unpleasant

synonym: foul/distasteful

antonym: pleasant/welcome

sentence: Charles was assigned the odious task of laying off the entire division.

posterity (noun)

definition: all future generations

synonym: heirs/lineage

antonym: past/memory

sentence: At Ground Zero in New York, victims names are read aloud each year for the sake of posterity.

Lesson

#2

transgress (verb)

definition: to break a rule or boundary

synonym: **overstep/sin**

antonym: **behave/obey**

sentence: There are legal consequences for companies that transgress labor laws.

lithe (adj.)

definition: having a long or flexible quality

synonym: thin/supple

antonym: thick/inflexible

sentence: The ballerina's lithe body seemed to defy the laws of physics.

saccharine (adj.)

definition: artificially sweet

synonym: fake/insincere

antonym: earnest/sincere

sentence: My mother-in-law's
saccharine smile convinced me that
she was lying.

aloof (adj.)

definition: emotionally uninvolved

synonym: reserved/detached

antonym: involved/concerned

sentence: The co-workers at my new job were polite, but somewhat aloof.

traverse (verb)

definition: to travel across or through

synonym: **cross/trek**

antonym: **stay/sit**

sentence: I traversed the tangle of picnic tables as I made my way through the food festival.

Lesson

#3

sacrosanct (adj.)

definition: regarded as too important to be changed/interfered with

synonym: **sacred/holy**

antonym: **profane/disrespected**

sentence: An individual's freedom of speech is held as sacrosanct in the U.S.

livid (adj.)

definition: extremely angry

synonym: furious/incensed

antonym: happy/calm

sentence: The Hollywood starlet was livid at being left off the guest list.

opaque (adj.)

definition: not able to be seen through; not transparent

synonym: cloudy/hidden

antonym: clear/open

sentence: The opaque glass used in the bathroom ensured people's privacy.

trite (adj.)

definition: lacking originality or flair

synonym: **tired/overused**

antonym: **fresh/unique**

sentence: A good writer works to avoid trite ideas.

opulent (adj.)

definition: showing great wealth and luxury

synonym: lavish/sumptuous

antonym: poor/destitute

sentence: The prom couples enjoyed the opulent comfort of their limousine.

Lesson

#4

nullify (verb)

definition: to make of no use

synonym: **cancel/invalidate**

antonym: **confirm/validate**

sentence: Don't nullify the effects of your training by stopping at the donut shop every morning.

labyrinth (noun)

definition: a complicated, irregular network of passages or paths

synonym: **maze/puzzle**

antonym: **path/gateway**

sentence: Finding my next class was like navigating a labyrinth of hallways and secret chambers.

reprehensible (adj.)

definition: deserving censure or condemnation

synonym: immoral/sinful

antonym: honorable/angelic

sentence: Most reality television shows feature at least one reprehensible character.

blatant (adj.)

definition: completely lacking in subtlety

synonym: **overt/obvious**

antonym: **covert/hidden**

sentence: The conflicted father chose to believe his daughter's blatant lies.

plausible (adj)

definition: seeming reasonable or probable

synonym: possible/conceivable

antonym: impossible/unlikely

sentence: Police must investigate every plausible explanation for the crime.

Lesson

#5

reprieve (noun)

definition: cancellation or delay of a punishment

synonym: postponement/pardon

antonym: sentence/doom

sentence: The family facing eviction was given a two-month reprieve by the landlord.

enshroud (verb)

definition: to cover completely

synonym: **hide/cloak**

antonym: **show/reveal**

sentence: Heavy gray fog enshrouded the entire Bay Area.

tedium (noun)

definition: the state of being slow, long, or dull

synonym: boredom/ennui

antonym: excitement/fun

sentence: An iPad can help fill the tedium of a travel delay.

plethora (noun)

definition: a large number of something, almost to excess

synonym: abundance/surplus

antonym: scarcity/lack

sentence: When I entered Powell's Sweet Shoppe, I was greeted by a plethora of sugary treats.

blithe (adj.)

definition: showing a casual or cheerful indifference

synonym: carefree/buoyant

antonym: heavyhearted/sorrowful

sentence: The wealthy heiress showed a blithe disregard for the laws of the road.

Lesson

#6

lackluster (adj.)

definition: lacking in vitality, force, or conviction

synonym: dull/uninspired

antonym: thrilling/inspired

sentence: We could make no excuses for our team's lackluster performance.

temper (verb)

definition: to strengthen by heating and then cooling

synonym: **hone/toughen**

antonym: **weaken/bend**

sentence: Enduring difficult times will help temper one's soul.

hedonism (noun)

definition: the pursuit of pleasure

synonym: sensualism/debauchery

antonym: restraint/abstinence

sentence: Las Vegas is marketed as a beacon of hedonism.

bolster (verb)

definition: support or prop up

synonym: **boost/reinforce**

antonym: **hinder/undermine**

sentence: She needed to bolster her argument with clear facts.

lament (verb)

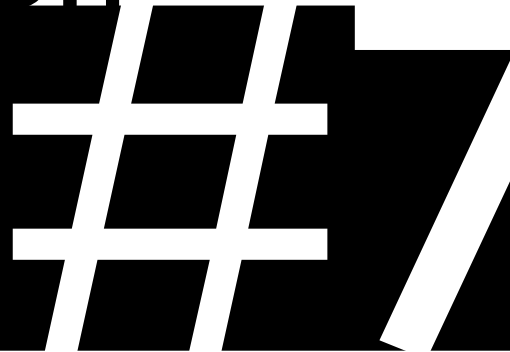
definition: to express one's deep grief

synonym: **mourn/bawl**

antonym: **celebrate/cheer**

sentence: The broken man lamented the death of his infant daughter.

Lesson



curtail (verb)

definition: to reduce in quantity or to put a restriction on

synonym: limit/clip

antonym: extend/increase

sentence: After I broke my curfew two weekends in a row, my parents curtailed my social activities.

epicure (noun)

definition: someone who knows a lot about food/drink

synonym: **connoisseur/gourmet**

antonym: **dolt/ignoramus** (in terms of food)

sentence: Epicures rave about French Laundry, a trendy restaurant in Napa Valley.

tenuous (adj.)

definition: insubstantial; in need of strengthening

synonym: weak/thin

antonym: strong/thick

sentence: Researchers have found a tenuous link between learning to play an instrument and higher math scores in school.

boorish (adj.)

definition: rude or unmannerly

synonym: **uncivilized/tasteless**

antonym: **sophisticated/cultured**

sentence: My uncle's boorish behavior at the wedding embarrassed our whole family.

vindicate (verb)

definition: remove blame or suspicion

synonym: **exonerate/clear**

antonym: **convict/punish**

sentence: The superstar athlete accused of using steroids hoped to be vindicated by a clean drug test.

Lesson

#8

poignant (adj.)

definition: deeply emotional

synonym: **affecting/touching**

antonym: **unaffected/dull**

sentence: The film's poignant conclusion caused tears to well in my eyes.

bourgeois (adj.)

definition: appealing to the masses in the middle-class; suburban

synonym: **materialistic/commonplace**

antonym: **imaginative/inspired**

sentence: French manicures and daily trips to Starbucks are signs of a typical bourgeois housewife.

hiatus (noun)

definition: a brief rest

synonym: break/pause

antonym: continuation/continuity

sentence: After a month-long hiatus, fighting continued in the war-torn region.

languid (adj.)

definition: barely mobile; not exerting much energy

synonym: **slow/lazy**

antonym: **quick/animated**

sentence: The sunbathers turned with languid movements so as to tan evenly.

resplendent (adj.)

definition: shining brightly

synonym: radiant/dazzling

antonym: dull/gloomy

sentence: The girl was resplendent in her sea-green gown.

Lesson

#9

acuity (noun)

definition: penetrating or clear
intelligence or skill

synonym: sharpness/astuteness

antonym: denseness/ignorance

sentence: A Supreme Court justice
must demonstrate great legal acuity.

debunk (verb)

definition: to show the falseness or hollowness of

synonym: **expose/disprove**

antonym: **confirm/uphold**

sentence: The stars of the television show *Mythbusters* take great joy in debunking urban legends.

adroit (adj.)

definition: clever or skillful in the use of hands or the mind

synonym: nimble/dexterous

antonym: clumsy/dense

sentence: My shady uncle is adroit at tax avoidance.

pontificate (verb)

definition: to express one's views in an arrogant or pompous manner

synonym: sermonize/lecture

antonym: listen/converse

sentence: When my annoying uncle started to pontificate about his political views, I politely excused myself from the room.

decorum (noun)

definition: behavior keeping in good taste

synonym: **manners/etiquette**

antonym: **rudeness/indecenty**

sentence: The little boy, having no knowledge of funeral decorum, started humming the Spongebob Squarepants theme song during the processional.

Lesson

#

0

adulation (noun)

definition: excessive admiration or praise

synonym: worship/flattery

antonym: hatred/criticism

sentence: Actor Johnny Depp lives in France because he says the constant adulation of his American fans makes it impossible to enjoy life in the States.

bristle (verb)

definition: to react defensively,
typically by drawing back

synonym: **withdraw/flinch**

antonym: **attack/pounce**

sentence: During the dinner party, my
mother bristled at my father's rude
remark.

laud (verb)

definition: to highly praise, especially in public

synonym: celebrate/lionize

antonym: mock/lampoon

sentence: The obituary lauded the man as a great soldier and statesman.

obtuse (adj.)

definition: slow to understand, or
difficult to understand

synonym: **thick/opaque**

antonym: **quick/clear**

sentence: The obtuse man had no idea
my sister was flirting with him.

tome (noun)

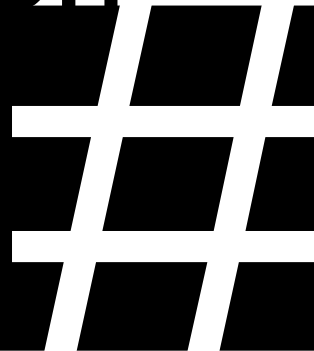
definition: a large, heavy book, usually filled with academic knowledge

synonym: **volume/classic**

antonym: **flier/leaflet**

sentence: Hermione dug through several weighty tomes to find the answer.

Lesson



embroil (verb)

definition: to involve deeply in an argument or conflict

synonym: **snarl/ensnare**

antonym: **exclude/uncomplicate**

sentence: The warring neighbors were embroiled in a lengthy lawsuit.

pious (adj.)

definition: deeply religious

synonym: devout/godly

antonym: insincere/sinful

sentence: Nothing will stop my pious aunt from attending her weekly prayer group meeting.

infamous (adj.)

definition: well-known for a bad reason

synonym: notorious/scandalous

antonym: celebrated/renowned

sentence: The Hollywood starlet is infamous for her childish behavior and never-ending legal problems.

regale (verb)

definition: to entertain or amuse with talk or storytelling

synonym: **captivate/engross**

antonym: **bore/tire**

sentence: He regaled his wife with a colorful account of that afternoon's meeting.

zeal (noun)

definition: great enthusiasm

synonym: passion/verve

antonym: apathy/indifference

sentence: The cancer survivor's zeal for life was contagious.

Lesson

#12

carping (verb)

definition: to continually complain or find fault

synonym: nagging/gripping

antonym: complimenting/forgiving

sentence: I quickly grew tired of his constant carping about his colleagues.

clandestine (adj.)

definition: done secretly

synonym: covert/hidden

antonym: overt/open

sentence: Romeo and Juliet's
clandestine romance ends tragically.

jaundiced (adj.)

definition: affected by illness,
bitterness, or resentment

synonym: **tainted/damaged**

antonym: **healthy/unblemished**

sentence: My grandfather looks at all
politicians with a jaundiced eye.

emancipate (verb)

definition: to set free

synonym: release/unchain

antonym: shackle/restrain

sentence: After her divorce, my sister was emancipated from a toxic, selfish man.

nomadic (adj.)

definition: wandering from place to place; not setting down roots anywhere

synonym: **itinerate/roving**

antonym: **native/settled**

sentence: My free-spirited cousin prefers the nomadic life.

Lesson

#1

3

impervious (adj.)

definition: incapable of being entered

synonym: closed/impenetrable

antonym: vulnerable/penetrable

sentence: Because of their thick layer of skin, many seals are impervious to the cold.

winsome (adj.)

definition: attractive or appealing

synonym: charming/charismatic

antonym: repulsive/irritating

sentence: After such a long, frustrating day, I was grateful to see Sam's winsome smile.

vilify (verb)

definition: to criticize very harshly

synonym: **smear/rip**

antonym: **compliment/praise**

sentence: Even after serving his prison sentence, Michael Vick was still vilified by the public.

verbose (adj.)

definition: using more words than are necessary

synonym: **talkative/chatty**

antonym: **quiet/mute**

sentence: It took the verbose teacher two hours to explain the topic, which could have been taught in 15 minutes.

pragmatic (adj.)

definition: in a way that is sensible and reasonable

synonym: **logical/efficient**

antonym: **impractical/fanciful**

sentence: Steve Jobs' preference for jeans and black turtlenecks was certainly pragmatic.



Lesson

#

4

presumptuous (adj.)

definition: disrespectfully bold

synonym: arrogant/overconfident

antonym: humble/modest

sentence: It's rather presumptuous to offer advice when your opinion hasn't been sought.

forlorn (adj.)

definition: abandoned; hopeless

synonym: **forsaken/bereft**

antonym: **cheerful/comforted**

sentence: The puppy at the shelter looked so forlorn that I adopted him without even consulting my husband.

frenetic (adj.)

definition: very busy; hectic

synonym: feverish/frenzied

antonym: calm/collected

sentence: The frenetic buzz of New York City is exhilarating to some, but exhausting to others.

incessant (adj.)

definition: seeming to never have an end

synonym: **persistent/constant**

antonym: **ending/finished**

sentence: The children wanted to go outside and play, but the incessant rain kept them indoors for two days.

abridge (verb)

definition: to reduce in size or volume

synonym: shorten/truncate

antonym: lengthen/expand

sentence: Because the English language is so large, most dictionaries are abridged.

Lesson

#15

maudlin (adj.)

definition: overly sentimental

synonym: **teary/soppy**

antonym: **unemotional/reserved**

sentence: Although many women enjoy romantic comedies, I usually find them maudlin and slightly insulting.

orthodox (adj.)

definition: conforming to tradition

synonym: **conservative/conventional**

antonym: **liberal/unconventional**

sentence: My cousin believes solely in natural remedies, but I prefer more orthodox medical treatments.

ostentatious (adj.)

definition: excessively showy

synonym: **glitzy/flashy**

antonym: **modest/plain**

sentence: To me, Roman columns on a California ranch home seem rather ostentatious.

petulance (adj.)

definition: angriness; foul mood

synonym: **grouchiness/surliness**

antonym: **happiness/generosity**

sentence: The nanny, who could no longer stand the child's petulance, resigned.

pittance (noun)

definition: a small amount of money

synonym: modicum/trifle

antonym: plenty/windfall

sentence: Carla is paid a pittance for the amount of work she does at her family's restaurant.

Lesson

#

6

fidelity (noun)

definition: staying true to one's word

synonym: **faithfulness/devotion**

antonym: **infidelity/treachery**

sentence: German Shepherds are known for the great fidelity they show toward their masters.

goad (verb)

definition: to urge or incite to action

synonym: spur/prod

antonym: deter/hinder

sentence: Draco goaded Harry with insults, hoping to start a fight.

incarnate (adj.)

definition: existing in the flesh

synonym: **manifest/personify**

antonym: **disembody/exclude**

sentence: In the church pageant, I play the role of Greed incarnate.

incorrigible (adj.)

definition: incapable of correction

synonym: **incurable/hardened**

antonym: **obedient/reformable**

sentence: You can buy Grandma all of the nicotine gum you want, but she's incorrigible; after 65 years of smoking, she has no interest in stopping.

prosaic (adj.)

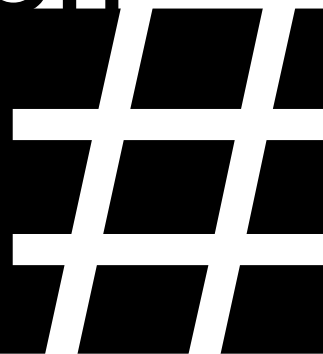
definition: unimaginative; lacking in liveliness

synonym: commonplace/lackluster

antonym: creative/interesting

sentence: The girl's prosaic reading of the poem bored the audience.

Lesson



preclude (verb)

definition: to make impossible

synonym: inhibit/prevent

antonym: permit/allow

sentence: My grandfather's large and vicious guard dog precluded anyone from entering his yard.

precocious (adj.)

definition: developing intelligence ahead of time

synonym: sharp/mature

antonym: dull/stupid

sentence: Doogie Howser was so academically precocious that he earned his medical degree by the age of 16.

sophomoric (adj.)

definition: inexperienced and immature

synonym: young/goofy

antonym: expert/knowledgeable

sentence: The mature senior rolled her eyes at her little brother's sophomoric, gross-out humor.

terse (adj.)

definition: concise; to the point

synonym: **direct/succinct**

antonym: **chatty/long-winded**

sentence: The embarrassed politician made a terse statement to the media before fleeing the state capitol building.

onerous (adj.)

definition: requiring hard labor

synonym: **difficult/burdensome**

antonym: **easy/simple**

sentence: The reality of onerous mortgage payments turned my parents' dream home into a nightmare.

Lesson

#

8

pallid (adj.)

definition: lacking color and seeming ill

synonym: **pale/bloodless**

antonym: **robust/hearty**

sentence: The student's pallid complexion convinced the P.E. teacher to call the school nurse for help.

panacea (noun)

definition: a remedy for all ills

synonym: cure/remedy

antonym: illness/disease

sentence: A mother's love might not be a true panacea, but it's pretty close.

innocuous (adj.)

definition: harmless; not offensive

synonym: **innocent/safe**

antonym: **harmful/destructive**

sentence: I asked Ray's girlfriend an innocuous question, but she took it the wrong way.

judicious (adj.)

definition: having or showing good judgment

synonym: sensible/prudent

antonym: unfair/irrational

sentence: When the judicious king decided to compromise rather than send his soldiers to their certain death, he was applauded by all.

juxtaposition (noun)

definition: the act of placing two things next to each other for comparison

synonym: adjacency/proximity

antonym: separation/disconnection

sentence: The interior designed admired my juxtaposition of the purple couch with the orange table.

Lesson

#

9

kudos (noun)

definition: words of admiration

synonym: praise/compliments

antonym: criticism/slander

sentence: After the performance, the reviewers gave the dance troupe kudos for a job well done.

proclivity (noun)

definition: a strong inclination toward something

synonym: **tendency/proneness**

antonym: **disinclination/inaptitude**

sentence: The people in my family are born with a proclivity for hard work.

profane (adj.)

definition: offensive

synonym: lewd/indecent

antonym: proper/holy

sentence: Jacob's profane act of dumping frogs into the holy water in the chapel at his boarding school resulted in his expulsion.

profuse (adj.)

definition: a lot of something

synonym: abundant/excessive

antonym: lacking/sparse

sentence: When she spilled red wine on the bride's dress, my cousin offered profuse apologies.

sovereign (adj.)

definition: having total authority in a certain realm

synonym: **dominant/independent**

antonym: **inferior/submissive**

sentence: The U.S. Senate's criticism was seen as interference in China's sovereign affairs.