

## Lesson Ten

1. **expound** (ik spownd') v. to explain in detail; to clarify  
Closing the Bible, the minister *expounded* the passage he had just read.  
syn: *elaborate* ant: *muddle; confuse*
2. **cajole** (kə jōl') v. to persuade with false promises and flattery  
Despite her best efforts, the mayor could not *cajole* Madame Harris into donating the land to the city.  
syn: *coax; wheedle* ant: *dissuade; deter*
3. **inscrutable** (in skrōō' tə bəl) adj. not easily understood; hard to fathom  
The crazed stalker left an *inscrutable* message on my answering machine.  
syn: *enigmatic* ant: *obvious; evident*
4. **balk** (bôk) v. to refuse stubbornly or abruptly; to stop short and refuse to go on  
Although Paul desperately needed the money, he *balked* at the idea of working for less than minimum wage.  
syn: *hesitate; object* ant: *agree; continue*
5. **acrimony** (a' krə mō nē) n. ill-natured, bitter hostility  
Because of his *acrimony*, the old man found himself lonely and friendless.  
syn: *animosity* ant: *friendliness*



6. **dour** (dowr) adj. stern and ill-humored  
The librarian's *dour* expression and stereotypical bifocals contradicted her tattoos and noisy motorcycle.  
syn: *forbidding* ant: *pleasant*
7. **exult** (ig zult') v. to rejoice; to feel triumphant  
When the results were announced, the town wildly *exulted* in its team's victory.  
syn: *celebrate*
8. **omniscient** (om nish' ənt) adj. having unlimited knowledge; all-knowing  
Dad described Santa Claus as an *omniscient* old man who knew whether we had been bad or good this year.
9. **feasible** (fē' zə bəl) adj. reasonable; capable of being carried out  
Though he is still young, Jeff has a *feasible* plan to participate in the Olympic games.  
syn: *possible; doable* ant: *unworkable*
10. **fiasco** (fē as' kō) n. a complete, ridiculous failure  
Our first date was a *fiasco*: I lost a contact lens, we got mugged, and a child threw up on Amber's shoes in the subway.  
syn: *disaster* ant: *success*

11. **métier** (me tyā) *n.* the work one is especially suited for; one's specialty; an occupation  
Justin is a decent singer, but dancing is his real *métier*.  
*syn: forte* *ant: weakness*
12. **fluctuate** (fluk' chōō āt) *v.* to rise and fall; to vary irregularly  
The stock market *fluctuates* so much that it seems silly to get upset when your stock goes down; it will probably go back up tomorrow.  
*syn: waver; vacillate* *ant: stabilize*
13. **harry** (har' ē) *v.* to annoy or harass  
The baby's constant crying began to *harry* the other passengers on the train.  
*syn: bother; pester* *ant: soothe*
14. **incognito** (in kog nē' tō) *adj.* disguised; pretending not to be oneself  
To avoid clamoring fans, the actor donned a disguise and traveled *incognito*.
15. **lethargy** (leth' ər jē) *n.* lack of energy; sluggishness  
The heat and humidity made me sink into the couch, too overwhelmed with *lethargy* to move.  
*syn: torpor; lassitude* *ant: vigor; vitality*
