

## Lesson Eleven

1. **epistle** (i pis' əl) *n.* a letter or literary composition in letter form  
Brian spent years writing lengthy, unsent *epistles* to his old girlfriend.
2. **avid** (av' id) *adj.* enthusiastic; extremely interested  
Dori was such an *avid* reader that I had a hard time recommending a title she had not yet read.  
*syn:* voracious; eager *ant:* apathetic
3. **gadfly** (gad' flī) *n.* an irritating and persistent person  
I tried to lose Judy, an obnoxious *gadfly*, in the crowd, but she stuck to me with unbearable closeness.  
*syn:* nuisance; pest
4. **humility** (hyōō mil' i tē) *n.* absence of vanity; humbleness  
Even though Jo is a celebrated author, she's the picture of *humility* and never brags.  
*syn:* modesty *ant:* vanity; arrogance
5. **dolorous** (dō' lə rəs) *adj.* exhibiting sorrow or pain  
The song was so *dolorous* that Dolores found it difficult not to cry.  
*syn:* mournful *ant:* joyous



6. **gargantuan** (gār gan' chōō ən) *adj.* of huge or extraordinary size and power  
Milltown's players were *gargantuan* compared with the small guys on our team.  
*syn:* gigantic; huge *ant:* tiny
7. **arduous** (är' jōō əs) *adj.* difficult; requiring much effort  
Refinishing the old bookcase proved an *arduous* task, but the results were well worth it.  
*syn:* strenuous; laborious *ant:* easy; unchallenging
8. **affable** (af' ə bel) *adj.* friendly; agreeable; easy to talk to  
The *affable* old man never lacked for visitors.  
*syn:* amiable; good-natured *ant:* disagreeable; irascible
9. **grandiloquent** (gran dil' ə kwent) *adj.* pompous or high-flown in speech  
Marcus gets *grandiloquent* when speaking of the theatre, assuming no one knows as much or has as refined a taste as he.  
*syn:* pretentious *ant:* plain-spoken
10. **agrarian** (ə grār' ē ən) *adj.* concerning farms, farmers, or the use of land  
The economy of the *agrarian* nation depended on good crop yields.  
*syn:* agricultural *ant:* urban; industrial

11. **grimace** (grim' is) *n.* a facial expression of fear, disapproval, or pain  
Amanda gave a *grimace* when Mrs. Hind assigned nine pages of algebra homework.  
*syn: scowl* *ant: smile*
12. **harangue** (hə rang') *n.* a long, strongly expressed speech or lecture  
My wife delivered a lengthy *harangue* this morning in an effort to get me to quit smoking.  
*syn: tirade*
13. **formidable** (fôr' mi də bəl) *adj.* arousing fear or awe  
When the hulking, 250-lb man stepped into the ring, Oscar knew that he had to face a *formidable* opponent.  
*syn: intimidating*
14. **sycophant** (sik' ə fənt) *n.* a flatterer; one who fawns on others in order to gain favor  
Teri was such a *sycophant* that she laughed loudly at her supervisor's awful jokes.  
*syn: toady* *ant: contrarian*
15. **explicit** (ik splis' it) *adj.* clearly and openly stated; leaving nothing to the imagination  
Mom's instructions were *explicit*: Do not leave the house for any reason.  
*syn: exact; precise* *ant: ambiguous; vague*
