

Lesson Twelve

1. **altercation** (əl tər kā' shən) *n.* a heated argument
The mounting tension finally spawned an *altercation* between the police and the residents.
syn: quarrel; dispute *ant: agreement; harmony*

2. **lexicon** (lek' si kon') *n.* a dictionary; a specialized vocabulary used in a particular field or place
Having grown up in the inner city, Shawn was familiar with the *lexicon* of the streets.
syn: jargon; argot; cant

3. **hue** (hyōō) *n.* a particular shade of a given color
Dad was going to paint the shutters magenta, but Mom hates that *hue* and nixed the idea.

4. **galvanize** (gal' və nīz) *v.* to startle into sudden activity
A slight motion of the guard's rifle *galvanized* the lazy work crew into action.
syn: stimulate *ant: enervate*

5. **sanction** (sangk' shən) *n.* permission; support
The teacher gave *sanction* to the student's odd but harmless habit of doing his homework in crayon.

6. **hyperbole** (hī pūr' bə lē) *n.* extreme exaggeration for effect and not meant to be taken literally
When Susan told her son she was going to kill him, it was only *hyperbole*.
ant: understatement

7. **ominous** (om' ə nəs) *adj.* threatening; foreboding evil
We went on our picnic despite the *ominous* rain clouds.
syn: sinister *ant: comforting*

8. **audacity** (ə das' i tē) *n.* rude boldness; nerve
Kate's father was enraged when she had the *audacity* to talk back to him.
syn: insolence; impudence *ant: decorum*

9. **evince** (i vins') *v.* to demonstrate clearly; to prove
If you *evince* your theory, the university will fund your further studies.
syn: manifest

10. **implacable** (im pla' kə bəl) *adj.* unable to be appeased or pacified
Her *implacable* suspicions were finally put to rest when a private investigator assured her that her husband was faithful.
syn: inflexible; relentless *ant: pacified; assuaged*

11. **exhort** (ig zôrt') *v.* to urge on with stirring words
 During halftime, the coach *exhorted* his team to "win one for the Gipper."
syn: encourage
12. **incarcerate** (in kâr' sə rāt) *v.* to put into prison; to confine
 We were shocked that the police *incarcerated* Rafael for something as minor as stealing hubcaps.
syn: imprison; constrain *ant: liberate; free*
13. **incisive** (in sī' siv) *adj.* sharp; keen; cutting straight to the heart of the matter
 I had thought the meeting would run for hours, but Sharon made a few *incisive* comments that settled matters without wasting time or words.
syn: piercing; acute *ant: superficial; dull*
14. **expedient** (ik spē' dē ənt) *adj.* practical; providing an immediate advantage (especially when serving one's self-interest)
 Lying, while not admirable, did prove to be the most *expedient* way to obtain the information.
syn: effective *ant: feckless*
15. **pertinent** (pûr' tn ənt) *adj.* having to do with the subject at hand; relevant
 The lecturer took questions as long as they were *pertinent* and enriched the discussion.
ant: unrelated; extraneous
