

## Lesson Fourteen

### Vocabulary Sketch


1. **levity** (lev' i tē) *n.* lightness of disposition; lack of seriousness  
Kent brought an air of *levity* to the otherwise somber proceedings by cracking a few jokes.  
*syn: frivolity* *ant: sobriety; somberness*
  
2. **hoax** (hōks) *n.* a practical joke; a trick  
The sighting of Elvis at the Bowl-O-Rama turned out to be a *hoax*.  
*syn: fraud; fake*
  
3. **amicable** (am' i kə bəl) *adj.* friendly; peaceable  
Commerce will suffer until the two nations establish *amicable* relations.  
*syn: agreeable; amiable* *ant: quarrelsome; warlike*
  
4. **obstreperous** (ob strep' ə r əs) *adj.* aggressively boisterous; stubborn and defiant  
The *obstreperous* mob of looters was finally subdued by an icy blast from the fire hose.  
*ant: meek; tractable*
  
5. **enraptured** (en rap' chərd) *adj.* delighted beyond measure  
Sasha was *enraptured* by the performance of the visiting ballet troupe.  
*syn: ecstatic*


6. **marital** (mar' i təl) *adj.* having to do with marriage  
*Marital* problems can sometimes be solved by a session with a marriage counselor.  
*syn: wedded* *ant: single*
  
7. **bask** (bask) *v.* to expose oneself to pleasant warmth  
During the Florida vacation, all she did was *bask* in the sun.
  
8. **genial** (jēn' yəl) *adj.* friendly; amiable  
Our new neighbors were so *genial* that we felt we had known them for years.  
*syn: cordial* *ant: unfriendly*
  
9. **charlatan** (shär' lə ten) *n.* one who pretends to have knowledge in order to swindle others  
The supposed doctor endorsing the fat-burning "miracle drug" was actually a *charlatan*.  
*syn: quack; fraud* *ant: professional*
  
10. **mundane** (mun dān') *adj.* commonplace; earthly and not spiritual  
Virginia thought herself too good an artist to be expected to deal with *mundane* things like earning a living.  
*syn: boring* *ant: unique*

11. **fickle** (fik' əl) *adj.* likely to change on a whim or without apparent reason  
Because she never kept one boyfriend for long, her friends said Keisha was *fickle*.  
*syn: vacillating; capricious* *ant: steadfast*
12. **juggernaut** (jug' ər nôt) *n.* a terrible destructive or irresistible force  
The Nazi *juggernaut* swept through Belgium and into France.
13. **naïve** (nä ēv') *adj.* simple in outlook; not affected or worldly; especially innocent  
Old movies usually portray country girls in the city as *naïve* and vulnerable.  
*syn: unsophisticated; unsuspecting* *ant: sophisticated; cunning*
14. **nocturnal** (nok tūr' nəl) *adj.* having to do with the night; occurring at night  
Owls are *nocturnal* creatures; they sleep during the day.  
*ant: diurnal*
15. **novice** (nov' is) *n.* a beginner; one who is inexperienced  
The older lawyer took the *novice* under her wing and showed him the ropes.  
*syn: apprentice; tyro* *ant: master*
