

## Lesson Fifteen

1. **noxious** (nok' shəs) *adj.* harmful to the health  
We opened a window to remove the *noxious* fumes of the paint thinner.  
*syn:* injurious *ant:* harmless
2. **connive** (kə nīv') *v.* to cooperate secretly in wrongdoing  
The corrupt judge *connived* with crooked politicians in order to make himself rich.  
*syn:* conspire
3. **chutzpah** (hoot' spə) *n.* nerve; audacity  
I cannot believe Michael had the *chutzpah* to claim that no one could sing that song as well as he could.  
*syn:* brazenness; effrontery *ant:* timidity
4. **liege** (lēj) *n.* a lord, master, or sovereign  
While the servants pledged their loyalty to the *liege*, they did not always like or respect him.  
*syn:* king *ant:* commoner; servant
5. **odium** (ō' dē əm) *n.* hatred  
The rebels had only *odium* for the ruling party.  
*syn:* abhorrence *ant:* love; adoration



6. **crass** (kras) *adj.* coarse; tasteless  
Ben made a *crass* comment about the length of the waitress's skirt.  
*syn:* crude *ant:* refined
7. **hypercritical** (hī pər krīt' i kəl) *adj.* overcritical; too severe in judgment  
In his inspection of the barracks, the sergeant was so *hypercritical* that no one passed.  
*syn:* faultfinding *ant:* lax
8. **fallacy** (fal' ə sē) *n.* a mistaken notion; a misconception  
My grandmother still clings to the *fallacy* that the world is flat.  
*ant:* truth
9. **complacent** (kəm plā' sənt) *adj.* self-satisfied; smug  
The former heavyweight champion became *complacent* after easily defeating several amateur boxers.  
*syn:* assured; confident *ant:* humble
10. **befuddle** (bi fud' l) *v.* to confuse; to perplex  
Street maps always *befuddle* me, so my girlfriend navigates when we take road trips.  
*syn:* bewilder; fluster *ant:* clarify; elucidate

11. **pandemonium** (pān də mō´ nē əm) *n.* a wild disorder, noise, or confusion  
Feeding time at the zoo could be *pandemonium* if not done slowly and carefully.  
*syn:* chaos; tumult; din *ant:* order; calm
12. **parsimonious** (pār sə mō´ nē əs) *adj.* excessively thrifty; stingy  
Ebenezer Scrooge was a *parsimonious* old man.  
*syn:* cheap; frugal *ant:* extravagant
13. **verbose** (vər bōs´) *adj.* using more words than are needed; wordy  
Some find Charles Dickens so *verbose* that they swear he must have been paid by the word.  
*syn:* prolix *ant:* terse; concise; succinct
14. **laudable** (lō´ də bəl) *adj.* worthy of praise; commendable  
The city has made *laudable* efforts to reduce crime by introducing after-school programs.  
*syn:* admirable *ant:* execrable
15. **indiscreet** (in di skrēt´) *adj.* not wise or judicious; imprudent, as in speech or action  
Ron was fired shortly after his *indiscreet* actions at the office party.  
*syn:* flagrant *ant:* prudent
