

## Lesson Eighteen

### Vocabulary Sketch


1. **impregnable** (im'preg'nə'bəl) *adj.* not able to be conquered; impenetrable  
The Greek warriors were unable to conquer the *impregnable* Trojan fortress.  
*syn: unbeatable* *ant: vulnerable*
  
2. **xenophobia** (ze'nə'fō'bē'ə) *n.* an intense dislike or fear of strangers or foreigners  
Tim's *xenophobia* gave him an unwarranted hatred for immigrants coming to America.
  
3. **inherent** (in'hir'ənt) *adj.* essential  
Exhaust and air-pollution are *inherent* features and drawbacks of the automobile.  
*syn: intrinsic* *ant: extrinsic; extraneous*
  
4. **irreverent** (i'rev'rənt) *adj.* disrespectful  
John's *irreverent* attitude toward his pastor embarrassed and angered his mother.  
*syn: insubordinate* *ant: worshipful*
  
5. **subjugate** (sub'ji'gāt) *v.* to dominate, conquer, or bring under control  
Plantation owners *subjugated* their slaves and forced them to do manual labor.  
*ant: free*


6. **expedite** (ek'spə'dīt) *v.* to increase the rate of progress  
More construction workers were brought on to the project to help *expedite* the construction of the new bridge.  
*syn: hurry; hasten; streamline* *ant: retard; hinder*
  
7. **filibuster** (fil'ə'bəs'tər) *v.* to attempt to block a bill from becoming law by speaking at length against it  
The Senator from Mississippi gave an eight-hour speech to *filibuster* the new tax bill.  
*syn: derail*
  
8. **pristine** (pris'tēn) *adj.* pure; completely clean and uncontaminated  
The vast, *pristine* wilderness of northern Alaska is too cold and remote for most people to inhabit.  
*syn: pure* *ant: defiled; spoiled; sullied*
  
9. **pithy** (pi'thē) *adj.* full of meaning; concise  
The *pithy* statements in greeting cards are often short and sweet.  
*syn: succinct* *ant: verbose*
  
10. **invective** (in'vek'tiv) *n.* an insult or abuse in speech  
Scott's *invective*, aimed at his teacher, resulted in an immediate trip to the principal's office.  
*syn: reproach* *ant: praise*

11. **prodigal** (pră' di gəl) *adj.* reckless, wasteful, and extravagant  
The *prodigal* actor was notorious for his lavish, excessive, and unruly lifestyle.  
*syn: wastrel; libertine* *ant: prudent*
12. **pliable** (plī' ə bəl) *adj.* easily bent or flexible  
NASA had to devise a new, more *pliable* spacesuit for astronauts working on the the space station.  
*ant: rigid*
13. **torpid** (tōr' ped) *adj.* losing motion, feeling, or power; lacking in energy  
The sleeping gas caused the hero's mind to become *torpid*.  
*syn: apathetic; lethargic* *ant: energetic*
14. **tenuous** (ten' yə wəs) *adj.* not dense or thick; having little substance  
Even though it was published, the dissertation put forth a very tenuous theory on intelligence.  
*syn: thin; unconvincing; fragile* *ant: strong; cogent*
15. **discordant** (dis kōrd' dənt) *adj.* being in disagreement  
The angry and *discordant* voices echoed throughout the conference room.  
*syn: conflicting* *ant: harmonious*
