Lesson Two

1. **heresy** (her´ i sē) *n.* the crime of holding a belief that goes against established doctrine
   During the Inquisition, those found guilty of *heresy* were sometimes burned at the stake.
   ant: orthodoxy

2. **docile** (dos´ əl) *adj.* easy to teach or manage
   The poodle, usually *docile*, went mad and attacked its owner.
   syn: submissive; compliant *ant: unmanageable; willful*

3. **libation** (lī bā´ shən) *n.* a drink, especially an alcoholic one
   When we visited the vineyard, we were offered a small *libation* at the end of our tour.
   syn: intoxicant

4. **anathema** (ə nath´ ə mə) *n.* 1. a hated, repellant person or thing
   2. a formal curse
   1. Cannibalism is *anathema* to almost every society on the planet.
   2. The prisoner spouted anathemas at the guards as they dragged him to the gallows.
   1. *syn: abhorration; detestation* *ant: beloved*
   2. *syn: condemnation* *ant: blessing; praise*

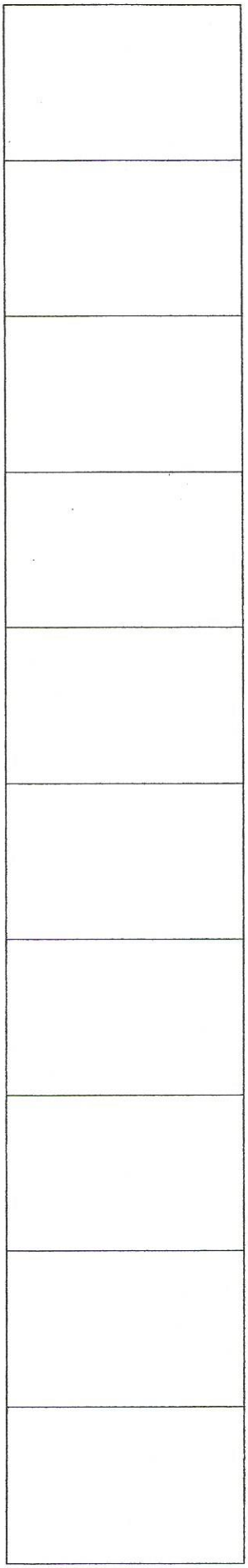
5. **banter** (ban´ tər) *n.* teasing; playful conversation
   At the reunion, Ruth enjoyed listening to the *banter* of her husband and his old college roommate.
   syn: joshing; badinage; raillery *ant: vituperation*

6. **castigate** (kas´ ti gāt) *v.* to criticize or punish severely
   The parson *castigated* the boy for noisily chewing gum in church.
   syn: reprimand; chastise; scold *ant: praise*

7. **gauche** (gōsh) *adj.* lacking social graces; tactless
   Some people use a fork to eat pizza because they think it is *gauche* to use their fingers.
   syn: awkward *ant: graceful*

8. **ignominy** (ig´ nə min ē) *n.* public shame, disgrace, or dishonor
   The mayor fell from acclaim to *ignominy* in a week when her cocaine habit was discovered.
   syn: disgrace; infamy *ant: renown; eminence; repute*

9. **motley** (mot´ lē) *adj.* made up of dissimilar parts; being of many colors
   The international clown convention was a *motley* sight in the otherwise dull exhibition center.
   syn: varied *ant: uniform; homogeneous; similar*

10. **emaciated** (i mā´ shē āt ed) *adj.* extremely thin; wasted away
    Dead from starvation, the *emaciated* prisoner was buried in the camp cemetery.
    syn: withered *ant: plump; fattened*

Vocabulary Sketch