Lesson Six

1. **condone** (kən dōn´) *v.* to forgive or overlook an offense
   After hearing about the man's starving family, most found it easy to *condone* his theft of the food.
   syn: pardon; excuse *ant: condemn*

2. **nuance** (nōō´ äns) *n.* a slight or subtle degree of difference
   The sharpest listeners detected a *nuance* in the speaker's tone that revealed her opinion.
   syn: gradation; shade

3. **connoisseur** (kon ə sûr´) *n.* an expert in matters of culture, food, or wine
   The chef watched nervously as the *connoisseur* tasted the soup.
   ant: tyro; novice; neophyte

4. **enigma** (i nig´ mə) *n.* a mystery; something seemingly inexplicable
   Mona Lisa's smile is an *enigma* because no one knows the thoughts behind her inscrutable expression.
   syn: riddle; puzzle

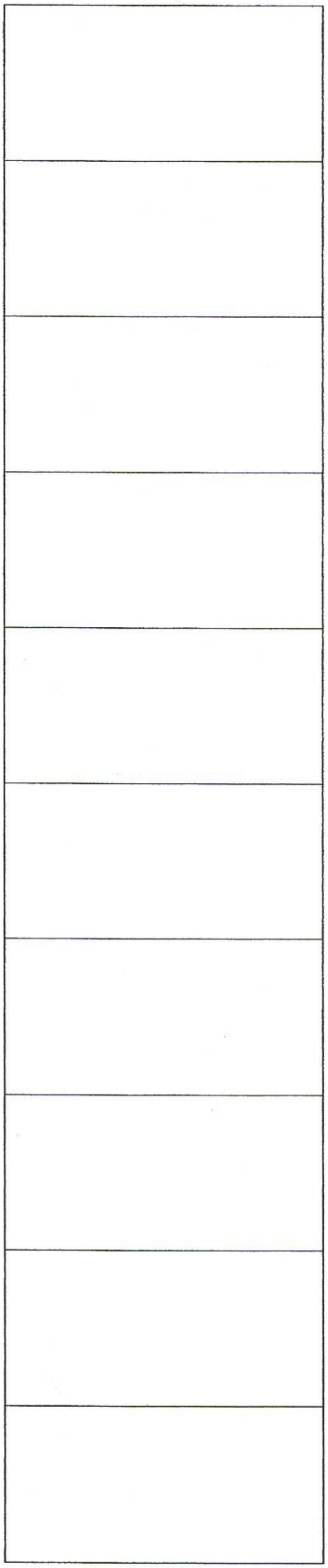
5. **apathy** (ap´ ə thē) *n.* lack of interest; state of not caring
   The fund drive to raise money for a new gym failed because of student *apathy*.
   syn: indifference *ant: interest; eagerness*

6. **officious** (ə fĭsh´ əs) *adj.* excessively eager to deliver unasked-for or unwanted help
   I wish my *officious* sister would stop telling me how to run my life.
   syn: meddlesome; interfering

7. **credence** (krēd´ ns) *n.* belief or trust
   Surprisingly, Shayna's teacher gave *credence* to her story about how she lost her homework.
   syn: faith; confidence *ant: disbelief*

8. **jaunty** (jôn´ tē) *adj.* having a buoyant, self-confident air; brisk and crisp
   My three-year-old always walks in a *jaunty* manner when I put him in that sailor suit.
   syn: confident; poised

9. **dilettante** (dil i tänt´) *n.* one who merely dabbles in an art or a science
   The *dilettante* felt that his superficial knowledge of art qualified him to judge the artist's work.
   syn: amateur; trifler *ant: expert; professional*

10. **cult** (kult) *n.* an organized group of people with an obsessive devotion to a person or set of principles
    To join the *cult*, recruits had to shave their heads and walk over burning coals.
    syn: sect

Vocabulary Sketch