Lesson Eight

1. **abate** (ə bāt´) *v.* to lessen in violence or intensity
When the winds *abated,* the helicopter was able to land.
syn: subside; decrease *ant: intensify; increase*

2. **decorum** (di kôr´ əm) *n.* conformity to accepted standards of conduct; proper behavior
The usually restless toddler surprised everyone with his *decorum* during the ceremony.
syn: propriety *ant: inappropriateness*

3. **abhor** (ab hôr´) *v.* to detest; to hate strongly
I *abhor* doing my laundry, so I have it professionally cleaned.
syn: despise; loathe *ant: love; adore*

4. **dole** (dōl) *v.* to distribute; to give out sparingly
At the crowded Red Cross shelter, food was *doled* out carefully to the earthquake victims.
ant: hoard

5. **gamut** (gam´ ət) *n.* the whole range or extent
Carmela's *gamut* of friends includes both overzealous socialists and greedy capitalists.

6. **extrovert** (ek´ strə vûrt) *n.* one who is outgoing; one who is energized rather than drained by interactions with others
As an *extrovert*, Liz loved parties and preferred entertaining to spending a quiet night alone.
ant: introvert

7. **droll** (drōl) *adj.* amusing in an odd or whimsical way
Xander had a *droll* manner of telling stories that kept everyone entertained.
syn: quaint

8. **duplicity** (dōō plis´ i tē) *n.* intentional deceit in speech or conduct
His *duplicity* became obvious when he absent-mindedly arranged to meet both his wife and his mistress at the same restaurant.
syn: deception *ant: straightforwardness*

9. **effigy** (ef´ i jē) *n.* a crude dummy or image representing a hated person or group
The repressed people burned an *effigy* of their tyrannous dictator.

10. **austere** (ô stîr´) *adj.* stern; severe; plain
The judge was as *austere* in her courtroom manner as she was in her lifestyle and dress.
syn: strict; unadorned *ant: luxurious; indulgent*

Vocabulary Sketch