

# Lesson 2

## **crusade** kroo•SADE

**NOUN** a fight for some good cause or against some wrong [More police officers were hired as part of the city's *crusade* against crime.]

**VERB** to take part in a crusade [Nan is eager to *crusade* for more girls' sports at school.]

## **downcast** DOWN•kast ADJECTIVE

1. looking or directed downward [The boy sat quietly with a shy, *downcast* face.]

2. sad; discouraged; depressed [Don't be *downcast*! Things can only get better!]

## **drastic** DRASS•tik ADJECTIVE

extreme; serious; having a major effect [Don't do anything *drastic* until you've thought hard about what you really want.]

## **engulf** en•GULF VERB

to swallow up; to cover completely [Huge waves threatened to *engulf* the little boat.]

## **grandeur** GRAN•jur or GRAN•dyoor NOUN

the quality of being grand, or large and impressive; greatness [Yosemite National Park is famous worldwide for its *grandeur*.]

## **imbecile** IM•bj•sil NOUN

a very foolish, silly, or stupid person [Only an *imbecile* would dive into water without checking first to see how deep it is.]

## **inoperative** in•OP•ur•uh•tiv ADJECTIVE

not operating, not working, or not effective [Cell phones are often *inoperative* inside large buildings and long tunnels.]

## **insignificant** in•sig•NIF•ih•kunt ADJECTIVE

having little or no meaning or importance; too small to matter [To me, the difference between the two brands is *insignificant*.]

## **novice** NOV•iss NOUN

one who is new to an occupation or activity; a beginner [Before Eli could become a regular employee with full pay, he had to work for six months as a *novice* at a lower salary.]

## **quip** KWIP

**NOUN** a short, witty remark or reply ["My barber," said George, "is always ready to offer his customers good clips and good *quips*."] ]

**VERB** to make such a remark [When my brother asked why cemeteries have fences I heard Mom *quip*, "I guess people are dying to get in."]

**Question:** What did Cinderella quip after someone called her a lousy basketball player?

**Answer:** "Well, what did you expect from me? I had a pumpkin for a coach!"



## **relent** ri•LENT VERB

to become less harsh, severe, or stubborn; to soften; to give in [When the blizzard didn't *relent*, school was canceled for a third day.]

## **resilient** ri•ZIL•yunt ADJECTIVE

1. able to spring back to the original shape, size, or position after being stretched, bent, squeezed, and so on [Most people would rather sleep on a surface that's more *resilient* than the floor.]

2. able to recover quickly or easily from sadness, illness, troubles, and so on [Grandpa, a *resilient* man, was back to work a week after his surgery.]

## **retaliate** ri•TAL•ee•ate VERB

to act in return for another's earlier action, especially a violent or evil one; to seek revenge ["If you *retaliate*," Mom said, "you'll be no better than the kids who hurt you."]

## **shenanigans** shuh•NAN•ih•gunz

**NOUN, PLURAL** playful mischief or trickery [The girls' *shenanigans* are never too serious; they usually involve water-filled balloons.]

## **simultaneous** sy•mul•TAY•nee•us ADJECTIVE

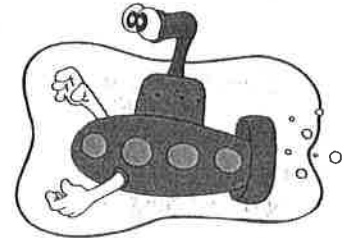
happening or existing together at the same time [When thunder and lightning are *simultaneous*, watch out!]

## Exercise A: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement.

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|--|-----|----|
| 1. Would it be <b>drastic</b> to expel a student for being tardy once? .....         | YES | NO |
| 2. Is an experienced carpenter a <b>novice</b> ? .....                               | YES | NO |
| 3. Is it a good idea, in general, to answer test questions with <b>quips</b> ? ..... | YES | NO |
| 4. Are a series of events <b>simultaneous</b> ? .....                                | YES | NO |
| 5. When the tide rises, does it <b>engulf</b> part of the beach? .....               | YES | NO |

**Question:** What did the basketball players on the bench do when the gym was engulfed by a flood?



**Answer:**  
They went into the game as subs.

## Exercise B: Antonyms

Write the **Word** that means the opposite of each underlined word or phrase.

- Rich is an expert; Mitch is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kay enjoys simplicity; Mei prefers \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sherrie's mistake was a major one; Jerri's was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nell is always ready to forgive; Belle usually attempts to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ken can usually be counted on for good behavior; Ben is full of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Val's score made her look like a genius; Sal's made her feel like an \_\_\_\_\_.

## Exercise C: What Is It?

Write the **Word** that each clue describes.

- Your eyes are this if you look at the sidewalk while you're walking. \_\_\_\_\_
- This is someone who saws off the branch he or she is sitting on. \_\_\_\_\_
- When everyone talks at once, this describes their comments. \_\_\_\_\_
- Begging, pleading children hope their parents will do this. \_\_\_\_\_
- Quicksand can do this to anyone who gets caught in it. \_\_\_\_\_
- This describes a flashlight that has dead batteries. \_\_\_\_\_
- This describes tumbling mats and basketballs but not sidewalks or golf balls. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise D: Mini-Rhyme Time

Write the **Word** that best completes each rhyme.

- If you felt low and cheerless last year, you were \_\_\_ in the past.
- Those who miss the chance to hit back \_\_\_ too late.
- Someone who intended to relax a strict rule meant to \_\_\_.
- If you can't hold back a funny answer, you let slip a \_\_\_.
- Someone scared to push for changes in the world is afraid to \_\_\_.

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**Question:** What goes  
boing ouch boing ouch  
boing ouch boing ouch?



**Answer:** Cinderella  
being dribbled down  
the court by one of her  
teammates. It's a good  
thing she's resilient.

### Quick LIST

**crusade** N., V.  
**downcast** ADJ.  
**drastic** ADJ.  
**engulf** V.  
**grandeur** N.  
**imbecile** N.  
**inoperative** ADJ.  
**insignificant** ADJ.  
**novice** N.  
**quip** N., V.  
**relent** V.  
**resilient** ADJ.  
**retaliate** V.  
**shenanigans** N.  
**simultaneous** ADJ.

## Exercise E: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that could be used in place of each underlined word or phrase.

- It would be quite severe to put a person in jail for parking illegally.
- We took the stairs because the elevator was out of order that day.
- Heather is part of a movement to build housing for the homeless.
- I was lucky to get only a few slight scratches when I fell off my bike.
- Mark gasped when he saw the splendor of the mansion.
- Risa always had a wisecrack ready to use in reply to a nosy question.
- When I saw the error I'd made on the math test, I felt like an idiot.
- Louie is hard to keep down and finds ways to deal with disappointments.
- Failure after failure left me too unhappy to try again.
- My collie is a rookie at obedience training, and so am I as a trainer!
- When Fritz cheated him, Jeremy was determined to get even.
- When I babysit those children, their constant naughtiness wears me out.

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## Exercise F: Fill-in

Write the **Word** that best completes each sentence. Use each word only once.

36. The dam broke, and water rushed down the valley to \_\_\_\_\_ the nearby town.
37. To Sue, going five miles over the speed limit was \_\_\_\_\_; the officer who stopped her disagreed.
38. Jorge realized that he'd have to do something \_\_\_\_\_ to get people to stop ignoring him and pay attention.
39. After Uncle Martin was laid off work, he was \_\_\_\_\_ until he found a new job.
40. Mrs. Banks asked whether the surgeon was a \_\_\_\_\_ or if he had performed many operations.
41. Hotel guests are always amazed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the huge lobby, with its marble floor and beautiful furnishings.
42. My mother says there are usually a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ at her office on April Fool's Day.
43. The soldiers attacked the village to \_\_\_\_\_ for shots that had been fired at them.
44. Jack wondered why the radio was \_\_\_\_\_ until he noticed that it wasn't plugged in.
45. Since the two explosions were \_\_\_\_\_, everyone thought there had been only one.
46. My neighbor is on a \_\_\_\_\_ to try to save the old library from being torn down.
47. Little Manny is a \_\_\_\_\_, good-natured boy who never stays unhappy for very long.
48. I hope my dad will \_\_\_\_\_ and let me go to the movies after all, now that I've mowed the lawn.
49. My sister asked what \_\_\_\_\_ washed red socks with the white clothes and turned everything pink.
50. We all laughed at Marta's \_\_\_\_\_ and wondered how she could have thought of it so quickly.

## Exercise G: Writing

Did you ever play an April Fool's joke on a friend? Did it make your friend look like an *imbecile*? Did the friend *retaliate*? In a paragraph or two, use at least **THREE Words** to describe your best *shenanigans*. (Don't write about some gross or stupid thing where someone was emotionally or physically hurt.)

### Quip LIST

He's such an imbecile that he . . .

is charged half-price by mind-readers.

once won a gold medal at the Olympics and had it bronzed.

was stuck for two hours on a broken escalator because he didn't know how to get down.

stayed home for the entire basketball season after the coach told him that he wasn't allowed to travel.

was arrested at the bank when he robbed one teller, moved to the next one, and said, "Hi, Suzie, I'd like to open a new account."