

Lesson 3

blameworthy *BLAME•wur•thee* ADJECTIVE
deserving to be blamed [The judge ruled that both drivers were equally *blameworthy* and threw out their lawsuits against each other.]

catastrophe *kuh•TASS•truh•fee* NOUN
a sudden and severe misfortune; a disaster [Failure to put the campfire out completely resulted in a *catastrophe*.]

chide *CHIDE* VERB
to express disapproval; to scold [Winona's parents *chide* her if she uses bad manners.]

defect *DEE•fekt* NOUN
a lack of something necessary for completeness or perfection; a fault; an imperfection [This coat was on sale because it has a tiny *defect* in the lining.]

falsehood *FALSE•hood* NOUN
a false statement; a lie [Tim's story of how he spent the afternoon was filled with *falsehoods*.]

filch *FILCH* VERB
to steal, especially something small or of little value [Each girl accused the other of trying to *filch* her pencil.]

lethal *LEE•thul* ADJECTIVE
causing death [Many medicines are *lethal* if too large a dose is taken.]

perimeter *pur•IH•muh•tur* NOUN
the outer boundary of an area or the total length of this boundary [Dad measured the yard's *perimeter* to see how much fencing he would need to buy.]

recurrent *ri•KUR•unt* ADJECTIVE
appearing or happening again or from time to time [The beauty of nature is a *recurrent* theme in the poems of Robert Frost.]

tedious *TEE•dee•us* ADJECTIVE
long and tiring; boring [Copying the entire paper by hand was *tedious* work.]

thwart *THWORT* VERB
to keep someone from doing something or keep a thing from being done [The bank's refusal to lend us money will *thwart* our plans to buy a house.]

totter *TOT•ur* VERB
to move in an unsteady way due to a problem with balance; to stand or walk in a shaky way [The baby managed to *totter* four steps.]

update *UP•date*
VERB to bring up to date with additions or corrections; to make known the most recent facts, ideas, and so on [Ling will *update* us on plans for the class party.]
NOUN a current version or updated report [Mom kept switching stations, hoping for an *update* on the weather.]

vehement *VEE•uh•munt* ADJECTIVE
having or showing very strong feeling; intensely emotional [The plan to chop down the forest to build new airport runways was met with *vehement* objections.]

vertical *VUR•ti•kul* ADJECTIVE
in a straight up-and-down position; upright [The sides of a house are usually *vertical*.]

ANNOUNCER: Here's the News 2 Go news team with today's news updates!

BOB: Bob Bobbins here. Today's top news story is some nasty weather. Let's go to Clyde Cloud for an update from the News 2 Go Weather Command Center. Clyde?



CLYDE: Yup, Bob. [Chuckle.] Well, a few twisters are blowing around town today, causing a bit of a catastrophe. With lethal winds of up to—

BOB: Sorry, Clyde, we're interrupting you to go to Mary Sue Moss for a very important News 2 Go news flash.



Exercise A: Synonyms

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

1. The border of a circle is called its circumference.
2. Mr. Reese wondered if his daughter's excuse was a fib.
3. Our coach will criticize us if we show poor sportsmanship.
4. Poisonous snakes are dangerous, and some bites can be fatal.
5. I grabbed for a tree branch when my ladder began to wobble.
6. The school will modernize its classrooms by adding computers.
7. Luke's forceful reply, "That idea stinks," made his opinion clear.
8. We knew by the look on Mimi's face that she was the guilty one.
9. Reach up and touch the wall, then jump and touch it as high as you can to measure your upward leap.
10. We fenced the garden to successfully oppose the rabbits' efforts to get our lettuce.
11. Hal's days were filled with a dull routine of typing business letters and filing folders.
12. The woman kept a tight grip on her wallet, fearing that someone would make off with it.

Exercise B: Antonyms

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

13. Is the house they live in located at the center of the lot or near its _____?
14. Was the film fascinating, or was it _____?
15. Are you going to assist me or _____ me?
16. Was that statement the truth or a _____?
17. Did the principal praise her or _____ her?
18. Is the fence post crooked, or is it _____?
19. Is that a life-saving drug or a _____ one?
20. Is the fans' support half-hearted or _____?

MARY SUE: Bob, I'm here in front of City Hall, where the statue of former Mayor Filo Fogg has been filched! Police say that nobody noticed until today because the statue had been covered while a defect in Fogg's feet—that is, the statue's feet [*giggle*]—was being repaired. It seems that this defect had caused the statue to totter dangerously. Actually, Bob, it's so breezy here that I'm experiencing a little

trouble staying vertical myself! Ha-ha!



Exercise C: If . . .

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

- 21. If a certain breed of dog is supposed to have ears that stand up, a floppy ear on such a dog would be considered a
- 22. If you had to put 800 words into alphabetical order, by the time you got to the fiftieth word, you'd probably find the task
- 23. If a store sold lots of very small, valuable objects, it might keep them in locked cabinets to make them hard to
- 24. If a car going fifteen miles an hour hits a tree, that's bad; but if a car going seventy miles an hour hits a tree, that's a
- 25. If you have a particular dream not just once but over and over again on different nights, that dream is
- 26. If you had to walk on stilts, but you'd never done it before so you weren't any good at it, you'd probably
- 27. If you're interested in a news story and want to know the latest information, you might turn to *News 2 Go* to get an

Exercise D: Other Forms of Words

Use what you know about the **Words** to choose the correct answers.

- ___ 28. Which statement shows **vehemence**?
A. "O.K." B. "Maybe." C. "Never!"
- ___ 29. What would make a pair of snow boots **defective**?
A. a hole B. a fur lining C. a snowstorm
- ___ 30. Which of the following has the most **catastrophic** results?
A. a war B. a sale C. a card game
- ___ 31. Which of the following is a behavior that **recurs**?
A. a crime B. a habit C. a triumph

BOB: Thanks, Mary Sue. No one can chide you for tilting a bit in this weather. Right, Clyde?

CLYDE: You are right, Bob, and [chuckle] upright too! Mary Sue is not blameworthy. These lethal winds could thwart anybo—

BOB: Sorry, Clyde, we're out of time. You'll have to update us on those lethal winds later.



Exercise E: Analogies

Write the letter of the word that completes the analogy.

- ___ 32. *sad* : *happy* :: **blameworthy** :
A. innocent C. reasonable
B. regretful D. uncomfortable
- ___ 33. *grumpy* : *grouchy* :: **recurrent** :
A. new C. strange
B. ruined D. repeated
- ___ 34. *hot* : *warm* :: **lethal** :
A. damp C. surprising
B. incorrect D. dangerous
- ___ 35. *hurricane* : *storm* :: **catastrophe** :
A. puzzle C. criticism
B. hardship D. assignment

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. Measuring a person's height determines his or her _____ size.
37. Mowing a large lawn with a power mower can be a _____ job even though it isn't an exhausting one.
38. Ms. Barber posted "No Trespassing" signs along the _____ of her property.
39. Some chemicals are safe when used alone, but they are _____ if they are mixed together.
40. Charlie was so weak and dizzy that he could barely _____ into the kitchen.
41. Barbed wire was attached to the top of the wall to _____ efforts to climb over it.
42. The doctor asked whether Mira's pain was _____ or if this was the first and only time she had felt it.
43. We can't drive our brand new car until a _____ in the steering has been repaired.
44. Failing to shut the gate showed the man's _____ lack of concern for the safety of the dog in the yard.
45. Kenny's statement was a complete _____, but no one was fooled by it.
46. I thought the teacher would _____ me for being late, but she just smiled as I came in.
47. Today in Minneapolis, a _____ occurred when an explosion at a factory killed two workers and injured others.
48. The fox that used to _____ eggs from the henhouse stopped raiding it after the farmer got a dog.
49. The children made _____ protests to the suggestion of taking a bath, because they were enjoying their game.
50. The owners will _____ the old hotel by putting in new elevators and a central heating system.

Quick LIST

blameworthy ADJ.
catastrophe N.
chide V.

defect N.
falsehood N.
filch V.
lethal ADJ.

perimeter N.
recurrent ADJ.
tedious ADJ.
thwart V.

totter V.
update V., N.
vehement ADJ.
vertical ADJ.

News 2 Go!

ANNOUNCER:
When you need news now, go to *News 2 Go*, where no news is not good news.