

Lesson 5

adaptable uh•DAP•tuh•bul ADJECTIVE

able to adjust to new situations [Since Dad was in the army, we moved a lot and had to learn to be *adaptable*.]

decree di•KREE

NOUN an official order or decision from someone in authority [The prisoner was freed by a *decree* signed by the governor.]

VERB to order or decide officially [A dictator can *decree* that criticism of his actions is against the law; a U.S. president cannot.]

eccentric ek•SEN•trik ADJECTIVE

acting or thinking in a strange way; not usual or normal in behavior; odd [Some people think Mrs. Washington is *eccentric* because she sometimes talks out loud to herself.]

esteem ess•TEEM

NOUN a favorable opinion; respect [A good step toward earning a promotion would be earning the boss's *esteem*.]

VERB to think well of; to have a good opinion of; to value and respect [I *esteem* Mr. Joseph's ability to treat everyone fairly.]

gumption GUMP•shun NOUN

courage and energy; resourcefulness [It took a lot of *gumption* to sell five hundred boxes of candy for the school band.]

hurdle HURD•ul

NOUN an obstacle over which a runner must leap in certain track events; any obstacle, difficulty, or problem [Life may put *hurdles* in your way as you try to reach your goals.]

VERB to jump over; to overcome an obstacle, difficulty, or problem [Frankie took a running start to *hurdle* the ditch.]

jovial JOH•vee•ul ADJECTIVE

merry, playful, and jolly; cheerful and friendly [I'm glad to see that you're in such a *jovial* mood today, since you've seemed so depressed lately.]

knoll NOLE NOUN

a small, rounded hill; a mound [I flopped down to rest on a grassy *knoll*.]

multitude MUL•tuh•tood NOUN

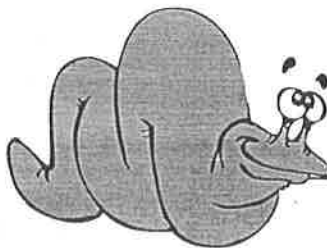
a very large number of persons or things; a crowd [The roaring *multitude* gave our team the boost we needed to win.]

nonchalant non•shuh•LONT ADJECTIVE

having or showing a cool, confident manner; casual [Feeling well-prepared, Mattie was *nonchalant* about the final test.]

recede ri•SEED VERB

to go or move backward or to appear to do so [It could take days for the water in the basement to *recede*.]



slug SLUG

NOUN 1. any of several small, wormlike, salt-water animals resembling a snail but lacking a shell

sluggish SLUG•ish ADJECTIVE

having little motion, speed, energy, or activity [The car engine was *sluggish* this morning because of the cold.]

suspense suh•SPENCE NOUN

uncertainty; concern about the outcome [We waited in *suspense* to hear if anyone had been injured in the accident.]

sweltering SWEL•tur•ing ADJECTIVE

very hot, sticky, and damp [Two people fainted in the *sweltering* heat.]

virtue VUR•choo NOUN

1. the quality of righteousness, goodness, or moral excellence [I think kindness to animals is an important *virtue*.]
2. any good or admirable quality [Tim has the *virtue* of being a good listener.]

Exercise A: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Is there likely to be a multitude at the Super Bowl or a World Series game? | YES | NO |
| 2. Would it be eccentric for someone to always wear nothing but purple? | YES | NO |
| 3. Would being unable to read present a hurdle for a ninth grader? | YES | NO |
| 4. Does it seem easy to get things done when you feel sluggish ? | YES | NO |
| 5. Is "Go away!" a jovial response to a knock on the door? | YES | NO |
| 6. Is it comfortable outside on a sweltering day? | YES | NO |
| 7. Are stealing and lying considered virtues ? | YES | NO |

Exercise B: Rhyme Time

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

8. Although I know I may not make the team,
Just trying hard will earn my dad's ____.
9. It doesn't matter if you don't agree;
You must obey what's said in a ____.
10. In our field, there's a rise like an upside-down bowl.
I can see all around from the top of that ____.
11. I whistle some music whenever I want
To make people think that I feel ____.
12. My grandpa's getting bald—so fast, indeed,
That I can almost see his hair ____.
13. I'm waiting and I'm nervous and I'm tense.
How long must I remain in such ____?

slug (continued)

NOUN 2. the early, wormlike form of a moth or of certain other insects

NOUN 3. a person or thing that moves with little speed or energy

NOUN 4. a small lump of metal, especially one used for firing a gun; a bullet

NOUN 5. a coin-shaped piece of metal used illegally in place of a coin

NOUN 6. a heavy blow, as with a fist

VERB to strike hard, as with the fist

slugabed NOUN

a lazy person who stays in bed when he or she should be up

slugfest NOUN

a boxing match in which many blows are exchanged; a baseball game in which many hits and runs are made

sluggard NOUN

one who is slow, lazy, or inactive

slugger NOUN

one who hits hard, especially a hard-hitting boxer or baseball player

Exercise C: Synonyms

Write the **Word** that is a synonym for each set of words.

- 14. barrier; fence; wall
- 15. order; rule; announcement
- 16. steamy; muggy; humid
- 17. weird; odd; unusual
- 18. decency; generosity; purity
- 19. inactive; lazy; slow
- 20. flexible; adjustable; changeable
- 21. carefree; relaxed; unconcerned



Sweltering and sluggish



Sweltering and sluggish
but jovial

Exercise D: Antonyms

Write the **Word** that is an antonym for each set of words.

- 22. wickedness; badness; sin
- 23. advance; increase; progress
- 24. cool; breezy; dry; pleasant
- 25. insecurity; shyness; doubt
- 26. ordinary; normal; typical
- 27. gloomy; humorless; serious
- 28. scorn; disrespect; dislike



Not sweltering, not sluggish,
and not jovial at all

Exercise E: What Is It?

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

- 29. This is larger than a bump but smaller than a mountain.
- 30. This is what your coat would be if it had a zip-out lining.
- 31. This is what scary music in a movie is supposed to increase.
- 32. This describes water going down a clogged-up drain.
- 33. This is what a shoreline will do as waves wash it away.
- 34. This is what an enormous feast would be able to feed.
- 35. This is a quality needed by pioneers and explorers.

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. If a story has a lot of _____, I find it hard to stop reading before I've finished it.
37. An animal that is not _____ to changes in its environment may become extinct.
38. The people standing on the _____ were able to see over the whole crowd.
39. Uncle Joe's smiles and jokes made his _____ personality obvious to my friends.
40. If you're active outside on a _____ day, you will become extremely thirsty.
41. When I'm in a hurry, I _____ our front gate rather than opening it and walking through.
42. Loyalty is an important _____, but I don't think it's more important than honesty.
43. Skill and experience made the workers _____ about walking across narrow beams high above the ground.
44. Most people _____ courage and look up to those who demonstrate it.
45. If school board members _____ that students must wear uniforms, some of us will be upset.
46. Our _____ neighbor carries her little dog around in a peach basket, but so what?
47. After our big meal, we all felt too _____ to play soccer as we'd planned.
48. A _____ of hungry pigeons surrounded the lady sprinkling bread crumbs.
49. We were amazed by Jolene's _____ when she stopped the mayor on the street to ask him a question.
50. As we drove away, I watched the house _____ into the distance.



A nonchalant slugger



A slugger with gumption



A hugfest (the opposite of a slugfest)

Quick LIST

adaptable ADJ.
decree N., V.
eccentric ADJ.

esteem N., V.
gumption N.
hurdle N., V.

jovial ADJ.
knoll N.
multitude N.

nonchalant ADJ.
recede V.
sluggish ADJ.

suspense N.
sweltering ADJ.
virtue N.