

Lesson 7

amend uh•MEND VERB

to change by removing errors or making corrections or additions [Our club decided to *amend* its rules for membership.]

conformity kun•FORM•uh•tee NOUN

similarity in form, action, or thought; action in agreement with customs or popular opinion [A certain amount of *conformity* helps people get along in society.]

diminish di•MIN•ish VERB

to make or become smaller; to reduce [The factory's closing will *diminish* the number of available jobs in town.]

endeavor en•DEV•ur

NOUN a serious attempt or effort [The dog made an *endeavor* to dig under the fence.]

VERB to make an effort to do or accomplish something [*Endeavor* to control your temper.]

evasive ee•VAY•suv ADJECTIVE

tending or trying to avoid or escape from something, especially by using cleverness [That guy is too *evasive* to give anyone a straight, simple answer!]

gullible GULL•ih•bul ADJECTIVE

easily deceived or tricked [Reba is so *gullible* that she believes anything she's told.]

inferior in•FEER•ee•ur

ADJECTIVE 1. of poor quality; below average [Ms. Burrows won't accept *inferior* work.]

ADJECTIVE 2. low or lower in quality, value, or importance; *usually used with to* [The shoes were *inferior* to my last pair, and they wore out much more quickly.]

NOUN a person or thing that is lower in rank, importance, or achievement than others [I'm tired of my sister's acting as if everyone else is her *inferior*.]

loathe LOATH VERB

to feel intense dislike or disgust for [Don't go to see that movie; you would *loathe* it.]

nostalgia noss•TAL•juh NOUN

a longing for what is past or far away or for the happier times of long ago [When Mom talks about growing up on a farm, I hear *nostalgia* in her voice.]

notable NOTE•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

deserving notice or attention; remarkable [One of Thomas A. Edison's most *notable* inventions was the light bulb.]

procrastinate proh•KRASS•ti•nate VERB

to put off doing something until a future time; to make a habit of postponing or delaying action [When Molly *procrastinates*, she has to stay up late to finish her homework.]

stamina STAM•uh•nuh NOUN

the ability to resist or recover from that which weakens, such as tiredness [Bill didn't have enough *stamina* to pedal all the way up the hill.]

torrent TOR•unt NOUN

1. a swift flow, especially of water [After a week of rain, the creek had become a *torrent*.]
2. a heavy fall of rain [A *torrent* soaked us.]

unnerve un•NURV VERB

to cause to lose one's courage or confidence [Don't let the other player's size *unnerve* you.]

vulnerable VUL•nur•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

capable of being hurt emotionally or physically; easily hurt [Babies need protection because they are so *vulnerable*.]



An example of a vulnerable baby

Hints from

Aggie and Moe's Baby-Sitting Guide

The Baby's Clothes. Some sort of clothing is necessary, even for the infant who loathes clothes. An unclothed baby is vulnerable, and parents will frown on the sitter who allows their little Snookums to catch a sniffle.

Exercise A: Opposites

Complete each sentence with a **Word**. To do so, you need to know that Nan and her sister Jan are opposites in everything.

1. Nan is honest and open and gives a straight answer to any question even if it isn't one she wants to answer, but Jan is _____
2. Jan lives according to the advice "Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today," but Nan has a tendency to _____
3. Nan gets too tired to go on after jogging for a block, climbing a flight of stairs, or studying for ten minutes, but Jan has great _____
4. Jan is strong, secure, tough and thick-skinned, and it seems that nothing would ever harm her; but Nan is _____
5. Nan does her own thing, has a style all her own, and never follows the crowd; but Jan's behavior is a model of _____
6. Jan is distrustful and suspicious and says things like "Prove it!" or "No way!" when she hears something questionable; but Nan is _____
7. Nan admires regular people who do ordinary things, but Jan's heroes tend to be those whose accomplishments are more _____

Exercise B: What Is It?

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

8. What is the coach asking for when she says "Just do your best"? _____
9. What are you trying to do when you say "Do I have to *now*?" _____
10. What describes a city when Godzilla shows up in a movie? _____
11. What do you do to your savings when you spend money? _____
12. What describes a person who falls for lies and tricks? _____
13. What could make a high river overflow its banks? _____
14. What does a homesick person experience? _____
15. What do school uniforms bring about? _____

The Baby Sitter's Clothes. Some clothing is necessary, even for a baby sitter who loathes clothes. Conformity to the usual standards of good taste is recommended.

Bedtime. All children procrastinate—or worse—when bedtime is announced. "Mom lets us stay up 'til three" is a test to see how gullible the sitter is. A good sitter will not be fooled. Also, there is no monster in the closet. A good sitter will not be unnerved by claims that there is. A night light can diminish bedtime fears.



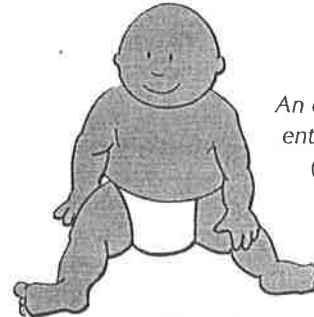
An example of one of the monsters that are most definitely not in the closet!

Exercise C: Completion

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentence.

- ___ 16. People are most likely to feel **nostalgia** when they look at
 A. a new car. B. a rainbow. C. a photo album.
- ___ 17. You could **diminish** your supply of food by
 A. eating it. B. freezing it. C. shopping for it.
- ___ 18. If you **procrastinate**, you want to do something
 A. well. B. later. C. quickly.
- ___ 19. Someone who thinks that most other people are his
 or her **inferior** could be called a
 A. snob. B. sneak. C. coward.
- ___ 20. Most cats **loathe**
 A. fish. B. trees. C. baths.
- ___ 21. If something **unnerves** you, it makes you feel
 A. brave. B. upset. C. determined.
- ___ 22. You would be **evasive** if you responded to a question by
 A. answering bravely.
 B. changing the subject.
 C. telling a complete lie.

Entertainment. Reading is an excellent way to entertain the child. Even an inferior story is better than no story. The same cannot be said for TV shows. Playing games is also very good, but endless rounds of Peekaboo require a good deal of stamina.



An example of an entertained baby
 (Note the lack of tears.)

Crying. Tears and cries may have many causes. An older child's torrent of tears at bedtime may be simply an evasive endeavor. However, a baby's cries may signal a more notable flood of a different sort. See Chapter 6: "Change Is Good."

Exercise D: Synonyms

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

23. strive; struggle; try _____
24. adjust; modify; revise _____
25. faulty; poor; second-rate _____
26. downpour; cloudburst; flood _____
27. outstanding; important; great _____
28. energy; power; strength _____
29. decrease; lessen; fade _____
30. scare; worry; frighten _____
31. hate; despise; scorn _____

Quick LIST

- amend V.
 conformity N.
 diminish V.
 endeavor N., V.
 evasive ADJ.
 gullible ADJ.
 inferior ADJ., N.
 loathe V.
 nostalgia N.
 notable ADJ.
 procrastinate V.
 stamina N.
 torrent N.
 unnerve V.
 vulnerable ADJ.

Exercise E: Mini-Rhyme Time

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

- 32. If a building's outside is cracked and peeling, it's an _____ exterior.
- 33. If someone refuses to give up, he or she may _____ forever.
- 34. If you edit your final paragraph, you _____ the end.
- 35. If you make Irving nervous, you _____ Irv.

*An example
of a successful
baby sitter*

Exercise F: Fill-in

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



Aggie and Moe's Baby-Sitting Guide will be available sometime or other in a few bookstores here and there. Maybe.

- 36. People who _____ may end up without enough time left to do what needs to be done.
- 37. I can't help it; I _____ my sister's boyfriend and can't stand to be in the same room with him.
- 38. Our school gets a _____ person to speak at the graduation ceremony every year.
- 39. We admired Tom's _____ because he made a really good effort to get the job done.
- 40. Paula thinks my dog is _____ to hers just because he has never won a dog show.
- 41. The elderly may be more _____ to some diseases than healthy, younger people are.
- 42. Knowing that the test would _____ the students, the teacher said, "These problems aren't as hard as they appear to be."
- 43. A politician may sometimes give _____ answers to avoid being pinned down by voters who disagree with his or her views.
- 44. Watching kids race their tricycles filled me with _____ for the time when my life was that simple.
- 45. Although the hare was fast, the tortoise had more _____ and ended up winning the race.
- 46. The group's disapproval was expressed in a _____ of criticism.
- 47. No, I don't believe that story; how _____ do you think I am?
- 48. The army requires _____ in how soldiers dress and behave.
- 49. The snow will _____ as the storm moves to the east.
- 50. Shall we _____ our picnic plans or just forget it?