

Lesson 9

accomplice uh•KOM•plis NOUN

one who knowingly participates with another in a crime; a partner in crime [Did the kidnapper work alone or with an *accomplice*?]

concur kun•KUR VERB

1. to agree; to have the same opinion [I wonder if the teacher will *concur* with my answer to that question.]
2. to happen at the same time [If the two events *concur*, we have to pick between them.]

crevice KREV•us NOUN

a narrow crack in or through something [A flower was growing through a *crevice* in the sidewalk.]

decent DEE•sunt ADJECTIVE

1. proper and fitting; meeting approved standards of society; respectable [Mom expects us to use *decent* table manners.]
2. fairly good; satisfactory [Lee can't play on the team if he doesn't get *decent* grades.]
3. fair and kind; generous [Sharing your sandwich with me was very *decent* of you.]

detract di•TRAKT VERB

to take away or lessen, especially in value or reputation (often used with *from*) [All those scratches *detract* from the car's resale price.]

exotic eg•ZOT•ik ADJECTIVE

1. foreign; not native [My neighbor uses a greenhouse to grow *exotic* flowers that wouldn't survive in his garden.]
2. fascinating or interesting because of being strange or different; striking; unusual [Clara topped off her outfit with an *exotic* hat of feathers and jeweled birds.]

flinch FLINCH VERB

to draw back from something dangerous, painful, unpleasant, or difficult [The unexpected thunder made me *flinch*.]

gruesome GROO•sum ADJECTIVE

causing horror and disgust [I closed my eyes during the *gruesome* parts of the movie.]

haughty HAW•tee ADJECTIVE

overly proud of oneself and scornful of others; showing too much pride [The *haughty* woman demanded immediate service even though I had been waiting longer than she had.]

horde HORD NOUN

a large crowd; a swarm [A *horde* of shoppers filled the store.]

makeshift MAKE•shift ADJECTIVE

used as a temporary substitute for the proper or desired thing [I slept on a *makeshift* bed of blankets on the floor.]

phobia FOH•bee•uh NOUN

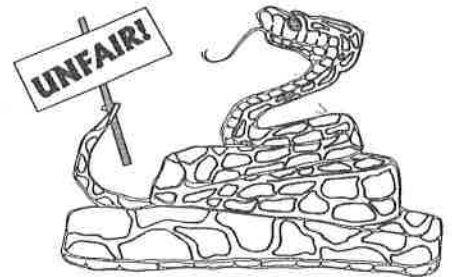
an extreme, unreasonable, and continuing fear of a particular thing or situation [My only *phobia* involves elevators; I'm always afraid I'll get stuck between floors.]

Question:

How do you keep a snake from striking?

Pay it decent wages.

Answer:



reluctance ri•LUK•tunce NOUN

a feeling of being unwilling or doubtful about doing something; unwillingness [The child came in for his nap with *reluctance*.]

rivalry RY•vul•ree NOUN

competition; an effort to obtain something someone else also wants or to do better than another [The *rivalry* between the two teams had gone on for years.]

vocation voh•KAY•shun NOUN

an occupation, profession, or trade [My uncle's *vocation* is carpentry.]

Exercise A: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. A phobia is usually very easy to overcome. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. A swimsuit would be a decent outfit to wear to school. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. People sometimes switch vocations during their lifetimes. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. If war scenes in a movie are realistic, they are gruesome | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Women use make-up to try to detract from their beauty. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. A piece of rope could serve as a makeshift belt. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7. A criminal's accomplice is also a law-breaker. | TRUE | FALSE |

Exercise B: Other Forms of Words

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

- _____ 8. If you had a **phobic** reaction to something, you would
A. panic. B. smile. C. yawn.
- _____ 9. One sign of **concurrence** is a
A. groan. B. nod. C. gasp.
- _____ 10. The **rivals** during a boxing match are the
A. fans. B. judges. C. boxers.
- _____ 11. A person could show his or her **haughtiness** by
A. trembling. B. sneering. C. winking.
- _____ 12. **Vocational** training prepares people for
A. jobs. B. sports. C. childbirth.

Genuine Phobias

acrophobia

AK•roh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of heights

agoraphobia

uh•GOR•uh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of open spaces

ailurophobia

ay•LOOR•uh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of cats

claustrophobia

KLOSS•troh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of small places or of
being closed in

hydrophobia

HI•droh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of water

ophidiophobia

oh•FID•ee•oh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of snakes

xenophobia

ZEE•noh•FOH•bee•uh
a fear of foreigners or strangers

Exercise C: Antonyms

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 13. argue; quarrel; oppose | _____ |
| 14. add to; increase; improve | _____ |
| 15. cooperation; harmony; teamwork | _____ |
| 16. eagerness; enthusiasm; confidence | _____ |
| 17. ordinary; common; everyday | _____ |
| 18. opponent; enemy; foe | _____ |

Exercise D: Synonyms

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

19. There was a small, narrow gap in the wall, through which I could see sunlight.
20. I have never been able to understand why Prunella acts so stuck-up and superior.
21. If a huge group of hungry locusts lands on a farm, a crop can disappear in moments.
22. Is there a restaurant in this town where I can get a reasonably adequate meal?
23. The career that most interests me is that of a veterinarian because I love animals.
24. When the bully raised his fist, I gazed at him and tried not to shrink back.

Exercise E: Questions

Write the **Word** that best answers the question.

25. What would you expect to find during a contest?
26. What does a person who is terrified of insects have?
27. What exists between two teeth but not between two eyes?
28. What kind of person treats other people honestly and well?
29. What describes many horror movies and "true crime" books?
30. What kind of seat could be made by turning a bucket upside down?
31. What is one likely to find in an anthill, near a beehive, or at Yankee Stadium?
32. What would you probably do if someone swung a baseball bat close to your head?
33. What must two friends' lunch periods do if the friends want to eat together?
34. What do people demonstrate when they drag their feet, hesitate, and object?
35. What kind of animals would you expect to see in a zoo but not in a backyard?

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. It was difficult to get through the _____ of children on the playground.
37. I'm a _____ basketball player even if I'm not a star on the team.
38. Did your parents _____ with your plan to get a part-time job this summer?
39. The princess had a reputation for being _____ and looking down on ordinary people.
40. Carly has a _____ about being in small places and can't sleep in a closed tent.
41. Viewers' conversations during a film _____ from other movie-goers' enjoyment.
42. I haven't chosen a _____ yet, but I think I might make a pretty good teacher someday.
43. To create a _____ leash for the dog, I knotted three of Dad's old neckties together.
44. Photographs of the accident showed _____ details of what had happened.
45. I searched for a _____ in the side of the cliff so I could get my fingers into it and pull myself up.
46. Everything about the big city seemed _____ to me after spending my life in a small town.
47. The thief's _____ gave him information about where the jewels were kept.
48. Did you see that big football player _____ when the bee buzzed past his ear?
49. There's a _____ between Juan and Brian because both want to be the team's third baseman.
50. My _____ to get in the pool is due to how cold the water is.

Quick LIST

- accomplice** N.
concur V.
crevice N.
decent ADJ.
detract V.
exotic ADJ.
flinch V.
gruesome ADJ.
haughty ADJ.
horde N.
makeshift ADJ.
phobia N.
reluctance N.
rivalry N.
vocation N.

Phony Phobias

Akronphobia
a fear of a city in Ohio

Claustrophobia
a fear of St. Nicholas

fee-fie-phobia
a fear of giants who live on top of a huge beanstalk

funnyphobia
a fear of jokes; a fear that just plain sounds funny

hydrantphobia
a fear of fire plugs (rarely a problem for dogs)

