

# Lesson 10 Words You Thought You Knew *Advanced*

You already know how to pronounce and use these familiar words. Now learn some of their less-familiar meanings.

## **angle** VERB

to use tricks or sly methods to try to get something [Denzel is sure to *angle* for an invitation to Holly's party.]

## **balance** NOUN

the part left over; remainder [I got some of my allowance, and I'll get the *balance* tomorrow.]

## **charge**

VERB to give instructions to; to command [If the captain *charges* us to retreat, we'll do so.]

NOUN 1. someone or something that is put in someone's care [The babysitter kept a close eye on her *charges* at the playground.]

NOUN 2. care and protection [I won't leave my cats in the *charge* of anyone I don't trust.]

## **composed** ADJECTIVE

calm and self-controlled; not confused or excited [Imelda seemed quite *composed* while she waited to give her speech.]

## **cow** VERB

to frighten; to take away one's spirit or make timid [You can shake your fist at me all you like, but you're not going to *cow* me.]

## **distant** ADJECTIVE

1. related, but not closely [I met some *distant* cousins at the family reunion.]

2. not actually rude but not at all friendly; indicating cool feelings [Alex's *distant* nod made me wonder if he'd heard my criticism.]

## **gravity** NOUN

the condition of being important, serious, or solemn [Josh's worried look made it clear that he realized the *gravity* of the circumstances.]

*Out in a pasture:*

**MADGE:** Isabel, everyone else in the herd is in a panic about mad cow disease! How can you stay so composed?

**ISABEL:** Why should I get upset over some stupid cow disease? I'm a jet airplane! Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

## **harbor** VERB

1. to provide a place of protection for (someone); to hide (someone) in order to protect him or her [Any person who knowingly *harbors* a criminal can get into serious trouble.]

2. to hold in one's mind; to mentally hold on to [Daphne says she won't cheat anymore, but I *harbor* some suspicions of her.]

## **lumber** VERB

to move along heavily, often in a clumsy, slow, or noisy fashion [The truck shifted gears as it began to *lumber* up the hill.]

## **mad** ADJECTIVE

1. crazy; insane [Everyone thought the old man was *mad* when he claimed to be the king.]

2. wildly excited; unable to think clearly; frantic [The mother was *mad* with fear until her lost child was found.]

3. devoted to in an excitedly enthusiastic way [That couple is just *mad* about each other.]

## **reflect** VERB

1. to think carefully and seriously [I need to *reflect* on all the choices before I decide.]

2. to show, display, or demonstrate [Chester hoped his paper would *reflect* all the time and effort he had spent on it.]

## **spruce** ADJECTIVE

neat, clean, simple, and correct in appearance [Richard looked quite *spruce* in his uniform.]

## **stir** NOUN

a state of excitement [The news that a Hollywood star would visit the school created a *stir*.]

## **untold** ADJECTIVE

too many or too great to be counted, measured, or accurately described [That statue honors soldiers' *untold* sacrifices for the nation.]

## **wasted** ADJECTIVE

weakened; feeble; worn away [Maria's battle with pneumonia had left her *wasted*.]

## Exercise A: Put It Briefly

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

USE A **WORD ONLY ONE TIME** IN EACH EXERCISE.

1. Emilia was hired to feed, water, and walk her neighbor's dog, watch out for it, and deal with any problems that might come up. *Briefly*, the dog was Emilia's \_\_\_\_.
2. Hippopotamuses are not dainty or highly flexible animals. They weigh a great deal, and their legs are short and thick, so motion requires real effort. *Briefly*, when hippos walk, they \_\_\_\_.
3. We were shocked by Dean's appearance. Hard work and a shortage of rest and food had taken his strength, and he was thin and exhausted. *Briefly*, Dean looked \_\_\_\_.
4. A salesman should be tidy and well-dressed. His hair should be trimmed; his clothes should be fresh and ironed; his shoes should be shined. *Briefly*, the salesman should be \_\_\_\_.
5. Vicky wants more money but won't ask for it. Instead, she will flatter her boss, show off her best work, and hint about other job offers she has received. *Briefly*, Vicky will \_\_\_\_ for a raise.
6. Despite the danger, Enrico seemed undisturbed. He showed no signs of being upset, was in complete command of his actions, and kept his head. *Briefly*, Enrico was \_\_\_\_.
7. The dog allowed me to pet him, but he didn't wag his tail and soon turned away. I snapped my fingers and whistled, but he simply ignored me. *Briefly*, the dog was \_\_\_\_.
8. Suzanne paid part of her credit card bill. She didn't pay it all, but she will next month. Her paycheck will cover every last cent that she still owes. *Briefly*, Suzanne will pay the \_\_\_\_.

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MADGE: Isabel, I don't think you see the gravity of this situation!  
 ISABEL: Not from this altitude!  
 Zooooom!

## Exercise B: Matching

Match each phrase on the left to the phrase on the right that means the same, or nearly the same, thing.

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ____ 9. <i>cow</i> a companion           | A. a disturbance at the depot |
| ____ 10. a <i>stir</i> in the station    | B. fantastically fond of food |
| ____ 11. <i>mad</i> about mealtime       | C. a dignified delegate       |
| ____ 12. <i>lumber</i> along the lane    | D. in the kids' keeping       |
| ____ 13. in the children's <i>charge</i> | E. trudge up the trail        |
| ____ 14. a <i>composed</i> congressman   | F. bully a buddy              |

### Exercise C: Synonyms

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

15. I was embarrassed by Nan's chilly response to my happy greeting.

16. The earthquake killed or injured countless thousands of people.

17. The judge will order the jury to consider all the evidence.

18. Natalie will try to scheme to get free tickets to the show.

19. Consider for a moment—do you really want to do this?

20. Can you finish the rest of the work tomorrow?

21. Why do you cling to resentment toward me?

*Up in a jet:*

**WILLY:** I'm always cowed by flying in these jumbo jets. I mean, how often do they crash?

**BILLY:** Once, I imagine.

### Exercise D: Mini-Rhyme Time

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

22. A dentist soberly describing  
tooth decay would discuss a cavity with \_\_\_\_.

23. To mention a recent commotion is to refer to the \_\_\_\_.

24. A child's soiled clothing, dirty face, and snarled hair \_\_\_\_ neglect.

25. Someone who can scare a girl has the power to \_\_\_\_ her.

26. A young man who has lost his mind is a \_\_\_\_ lad.

### Exercise E: Antonyms

Write the **Word** that means the opposite of each underlined word or phrase. This exercise continues on the next page.

27. They have little money now but once had \_\_\_\_ wealth.

28. Proceed in a calm, steady manner; don't get into a \_\_\_\_ rush.

29. I certainly wasn't expecting to hear such merriment in Dad's voice; I expected \_\_\_\_.

30. The long, hard day left Jameel rumpled and grimy, although he had left the house looking \_\_\_\_.

31. Our strong, healthy appearance contrasted with the \_\_\_\_ bodies of refugees in the camp.

32. A panther and a lion are close relatives; a pet cat and a lion are more \_\_\_\_ relatives.

*Later:*

**WILLY:** Do cows fly?

**BILLY:** Are you mad?

33. A foreign government might turn over people accused of crimes in this country, or it might \_\_\_ them in its own.
34. Georgette was able to conceal her lack of training for a while, but eventually her mistakes began to \_\_\_ it.
35. Try to scamper down to first base, don't \_\_\_!

**Exercise F: Fill-in**

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

36. The boss's bad temper and harshness managed to \_\_\_ all his employees.
37. Mac was determined that every camper in his would remain healthy and safe.
38. We ate all the peaches we could and saved the \_\_\_ of them for canning.
39. Caleb picked up the heavy box and started to \_\_\_ through the snow.
40. I think Tammy is annoyed with me; she acted so \_\_\_ all evening.
41. Brandon was anxious about whether he looked \_\_\_ enough for his job interview.
42. I don't know how Conchita could remain so \_\_\_ while everyone else was a nervous wreck.
43. The mood following the tragedy was one of \_\_\_; everyone spoke in low tones.
44. A bad call by the line judge produced a \_\_\_ among the spectators at the tennis match.
45. Mom told me to sit in my room and \_\_\_ on how I'd let the entire family down.
46. The actual result of any war is \_\_\_ misery for everyone involved in it.
47. Photographs showed the \_\_\_ bodies of those who stood in line for emergency food supplies.
48. I'll bet Glenda will \_\_\_ for a ride home by making somebody feel sorry for her.
49. The man was \_\_\_ with grief and did not seem to know what he was doing.
50. "Nations that \_\_\_ our enemies are enemies themselves," said the general.

**Quick LIST**

- angle** V.  
**balance** N.  
**charge** V., N.  
**composed** ADJ.  
**cow** V.  
**distant** ADJ.  
**gravity** N.  
**harbor** V.  
**lumber** V.  
**mad** ADJ.  
**reflect** V.  
**spruce** ADJ.  
**stir** N.  
**untold** ADJ.  
**wasted** ADJ.



I'd never spied a flying cow,  
 I never thought I'd spy one.  
 I harbor no hard feelings,  
 But I never want to fly one!