

Lesson 10 Words You Thought You Knew

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

admission NOUN

an acknowledgment or confession [We want an *admission* from the company that it is responsible for the pollution.]

dear ADJECTIVE

high-priced; costly; expensive [Freedom comes at a *dear* price.]

decided ADJECTIVE

1. definite and unmistakable; unquestionable [The other team's experience gave them a *decided* advantage over us rookies.]
2. unhesitating; determined [The president spoke in a *decided* tone of voice.]

edge NOUN

favorable position; advantage [I had the *edge* in height, but Malcolm was quicker.]

fancy

NOUN 1. imagination, especially light, playful imagination; that which is imagined [Unicorns are a product of people's *fancy*.]

NOUN 2. a preference, fondness, or liking [Miss Green has a *fancy* for miniature poodles.]

VERB 1. to form an idea of; to imagine [I just can't *fancy* Norma as a teacher.]

VERB 2. to have a fondness or liking for [Tina *fancies* walks on the beach.]



He has bought something dear for someone he fancies. But will she fancy it? Does she fancy *him*, or is she only toying with him? Is he game enough to find out?

forge VERB

1. to make or work into shape; to form [It took great effort and intelligence to *forge* a nation from thirteen former colonies.]
2. to move forward slowly but steadily in the face of difficulty [We were determined to *forge* ahead despite the darkness.]

game ADJECTIVE

1. courageous [Many animals are *game* fighters when they're defending their babies.]
2. having enough spirit; ready [Mona is always *game* for an adventure.]
3. lame [Uncle Jerome has a *game* ankle.]

prompt VERB

1. to remind a person of something; to assist one's memory [You may *prompt* her with a clue, but don't give her the answer.]
2. to move to action; to urge or inspire [Being mean may *prompt* others to be mean in return.]

rude ADJECTIVE

roughly made or done; crude [They lived in a *rude* hut among the trees.]

slanted ADJECTIVE

written or told in a way that shows only one side or point of view [Rosa's *slanted* version of what happened made her seem blameless.]

steal VERB

to move quietly or sneakily [After the baby drops off to sleep, *steal* out of the room.]

stunt VERB

to hold back growth or development [People used to think that drinking coffee would *stunt* a child's growth.]

tax VERB

to make a heavy demand on; to burden [Having to rush can *tax* your nerves.]

toy VERB

to treat a person, idea, or thing lightly, without serious consideration; to play or fool with; usually used with *with* [He's not the type of man who *toys* with women's affections.]

weigh VERB

to consider or examine thoughtfully and carefully [The jury should *weigh* all of the evidence before announcing its verdict.]

Exercise A: What Is It?

Write the Word that each clue describes.

- 1. "I did it" is an example of this, and a simple nod may be also.
- 2. Someone with a bad limp might have this kind of leg.
- 3. When the score is 20 to 0, this describes the winner's victory.
- 4. If someone gets a head start in a race, this is what he or she has.
- 5. You ought to do this to the facts before making a difficult decision.
- 6. If a child forgets to say thank you, his mom may do this to him with a nudge.
- 7. To do this to a friendship, a government, or an agreement is to create and develop it.
- 8. If a house is made of rough boards and has a dirt floor, this describes it.
- 9. This is what you would do to your parents' patience if you were really irritating.
- 10. You do this with your food when you just push it around your plate.
- 11. Poor soil may do this to plants, and poor nutrition may do it to people.



"Jack and Jill went ... uh, um ..."



"UP! THE! HILL!"

Prompting in a very decided way

Exercise B: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

- 12. You would make an **admission** by admitting that you did something. TRUE FALSE
- 13. A good education often gives a job seeker an **edge**. TRUE FALSE
- 14. If you **weigh** certain information, you ignore it. TRUE FALSE
- 15. It shows respect for people to **toy** with them. TRUE FALSE
- 16. A slang synonym for **game** is **gutsy**. TRUE FALSE
- 17. Newspaper articles are supposed to be **slanted**. TRUE FALSE
- 18. A pile of blankets on the floor would be a **rude** bed. TRUE FALSE
- 19. You can **fancy** yourself as a big movie star only if you really are one. TRUE FALSE
- 20. Good parents try to **stunt** their children's ability to be responsible people. TRUE FALSE

Exercise C: Synonyms

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

21. Going up a steep hill will strain our old car's engine beyond its ability. _____
22. I tried to creep past the doorway without anyone seeing me. _____
23. The writer used his creative, inventive mind to develop Dougie the Dancing Duck. _____
24. If the actor forgets his lines, provide a hint for him by giving him the first two words. _____
25. I asked who'd ride the new roller coaster with me, and Wanda said, "I'm willing!" _____
26. My dad's being fired was a high price to pay for telling the truth. _____
27. The pioneers were determined to push on across the desert. _____
28. She had a firm manner that showed she had made up her mind. _____
29. You should pay careful attention to what he says before reaching a conclusion. _____

Exercise D: Antonyms

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

30. I don't want to go to the dance with someone I dislike; I want to go with someone I _____. _____
31. Some drugs can increase a growing person's height; others may _____ it. _____
32. Give all the facts and be fair; don't give a _____ report about the issue. _____
33. Butter, which had been quite cheap before, became very _____ during the war. _____
34. Don't stomp into the house and awaken us; just _____ in and go to bed. _____
35. Your ideas of right and wrong will prevent certain actions and _____ other ones. _____

Quick LIST

- admission N.
- dear ADJ.
- decided ADJ.
- edge N.
- fancy N., V.
- forge V.
- game ADJ.
- prompt V.
- rude ADJ.
- slanted ADJ.
- steal V.
- stunt V.
- tax V.
- toy V.
- weigh V.



A burglar stealing in

A bank robber not stealing out



Exercise E: Fill-in

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

36. If you _____ all the details I've presented, you'll see that they prove I'm right.
37. I admired that _____ little boy who wouldn't let anybody bully him.
38. Doing pull-ups can _____ the strength of even an athlete in good physical condition.
39. If Lisa is waiting for an _____ from John that he was wrong, she'll have a long wait.
40. Mom knows Uncle Cal has a _____ for blueberry pie, so she made one for dessert.
41. The blacksmith hammered away to _____ the hot metal bar into a horseshoe.
42. I sat near the back of the theater so I could _____ out without anyone noticing.
43. Using a wide board, Rob and Danny made a _____ stretcher and carried Hal down the trail.
44. Mary's larger tennis racket gave her the _____ she needed to finally beat Josie.
45. The final vote counts showed a _____ victory for the candidate I supported.
46. It would be really nasty to _____ with a child by making promises you don't intend to keep.
47. Fresh peaches are very _____ this time of year; wait to buy them when they're in season.
48. You may hear a _____ description of an accident if you ask a driver who was involved.
49. "What could _____ someone to do such a horrible thing?" asked Matt.
50. One can _____ a tree's growth by limiting the room for its roots so that it will fit into a small place.

Exercise F: Writing

Imagine that your house is on fire or about to be flooded. What one belonging would you be **prompted** to save? (Pets and people are not in danger.) On your own paper, use at least **TWO Words** to explain your answer. You must use the words with the meanings taught in this lesson, but you may also use them with other meanings if you like. For example, you might say that the object you would save is *dear* ("beloved") even though it wasn't *dear* ("costly").

"Alvin," his wife said, "you're 36! Don't toy with those mashed potatoes! It sets a bad example for the kids!"



Alvin fancied that he had been forging a work of art, but he just said, "Yes, dear," and quietly ate.

I had already weighed the question of what object to save from a disaster. So I had the edge when that big flood hit. Hugging my black-velvet painting of Elvis, I forged my way to the boat.



Sadly, all I wound up saving was the frame. Elvis fell into the river (*sigh*) and sank.