

# Lesson 11

**annihilate** uh•NY•uh•late VERB

to destroy completely [A hurricane could *annihilate* this town.]

**berate** bee•RATE VERB

to scold sharply or harshly [It isn't fair to *berate* me for an accident that wasn't my fault.]

**brink** BRINK NOUN

the edge of something [A crow was perched on the *brink* of the roof.]

**devise** di•VIZE VERB

to work out or create something by thinking; to invent [Two prisoners worked together to *devise* an escape plan.]

**dormant** DOR•munt ADJECTIVE

sleeping or as if sleeping; not active [Rosebushes are *dormant* in the winter, but they start to grow again in the spring.]

**drone** DRONE

VERB 1. to make a steady, low, humming or buzzing sound [Listen to the airplane engine *drone*.]

VERB 2. to speak in a dull, tiresome manner [If a speaker *drone*s on, I get really bored.]

NOUN a steady, low humming or buzzing sound [The *drone* of the dishwasher wasn't loud, but it still annoyed me.]

**embed** em•BED VERB

to set or fix firmly in (something) [It was necessary to *embed* the fence posts in cement so that they wouldn't wobble.]

**frenzy** FREN•zee NOUN

very great excitement; a wild outburst of feeling or action [Five ambulances arrived at once, and the emergency room burst into a *frenzy* of noise and activity.]

**hurtle** HUR•tul VERB

to move swiftly and with great force [We watched the train *hurtle* past.]

**improbable** im•PROB•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

not likely to happen or be true; unlikely [My brother hopes to get a car for his birthday, but I think that's *improbable*.]

**jeopardy** JEP•ur•dee NOUN

great risk or danger of loss, injury, or death [The troops at the front lines faced the greatest *jeopardy*.]

**lax** LAX ADJECTIVE

1. not careful or watchful enough; careless [Don't be *lax* about capitalizing proper nouns.]
2. allowing too much freedom; not strict [The coach was *lax* about whether we showed up for practice, so our team was pretty bad.]
3. not tense, tight, or firm; loose [A *lax* clothesline will droop.]

## What If People Asked Dogs to Change Burned-Out Light Bulbs?



**BLOODHOUND:** Can it wait, pal? I'm on the brink of a real discovery here. I'm pretty sure that there's a piece of sausage pizza in back of this sofa.

**POODLE:** *Oui*, of course, but why all zis, how you say, frenzy? Zee dark is so romantic, *oui*?

**meager** MEE•gur ADJECTIVE

barely enough or not enough in amount or quantity [The tiny store on the corner has only a *meager* supply of canned goods.]

**obstruction** ub•STRUK•shun NOUN

anything that is an obstacle; someone or something that interrupts or gets in the way [A fallen tree created an *obstruction* in the road.]

**undeniable** un•di•NY•uh•bul ADJECTIVE

that cannot be denied; unquestionable; certain [Lily's talent is *undeniable*, but I wonder about her willingness to practice.]

## Exercise A: Synonyms

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

1. develop; form; make
2. obvious; sure; absolute
3. inactive; motionless; quiet
4. easygoing; relaxed; careless
5. rush; race; dash
6. rim; border; brim

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**DALMATIAN:** You say something burned? Where was the fire? Did you call the fire department? Was anyone in jeopardy?

**DACHSHUND:** Is it the ceiling light? Because it's highly improbable that I can reach the ceiling light.

## Exercise B: Questions

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

7. What might you call parents who had very few rules for their children?
8. What do you do to a nail when you pound it into wood?
9. What do rafts do if they go over a waterfall?
10. What noise do bees and power mowers make?
11. What do you do to someone when you bawl him or her out?
12. What do bombs do to their targets?
13. What kind of lunch is half a sandwich and four grapes?

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**GREYHOUND:** Sure, I can change it. First I'll hurtle down to the hardware store for a bulb. Back in a flash!

**HUSKY:** I shall not fail you! No obstruction will keep me from . . . from . . . um, what is a light bulb?

## Exercise C: Antonyms

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

14. calmness; peace; inactivity
15. loosen; remove; withdraw
16. lively; energetic; awake
17. stroll; crawl; creep
18. safety; security; protection
19. praise; congratulate; applaud

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**Exercise D: If . . .**

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

- 20. If you're late and rushing around, searching madly for your homework, and throwing books in your backpack, you're in a .....
- 21. If you have your hand in the cookie jar and crumbs all over your chin, the fact that you've been snacking is just plain .....
- 22. If a house is on fire, and people climb out on the roof to get away, and the roof is high above the ground, the people are in .....
- 23. If it's possible for something to happen but only barely possible, and you don't think it will happen, you'd say it was .....
- 24. If someone leaves his or her bicycle on the sidewalk so that people have to go around it on the grass, the bike is an annoying .....

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**Exercise E: Other Forms of Words**

Using what you know about the **Words**, choose the correct answers.

- \_\_\_ 25. Bears are in a state of **dormancy** when they  
A. hibernate.      B. raid a campsite.      C. defend their cubs.
- \_\_\_ 26. What is most likely to **jeopardize** a forest?  
A. a tent      B. a raccoon      C. a campfire
- \_\_\_ 27. What would be most likely to cause the **annihilation** of a house?  
A. a robbery      B. a tornado      C. a new roof
- \_\_\_ 28. What is meant to be **obstructive**?  
A. a path      B. a roadblock      C. an ambulance
- \_\_\_ 29. Which has the greatest **improbability**?  
A. a blizzard in July      B. a rainbow after rain      C. noise on a playground

**ENGLISH BULLDOG:**  
I say, old chap, it was a bit lax of you to allow this to happen again, don't you think?

**ST. BERNARD:** A bulb? Pah! Listen, fella, I'm going to embed myself in that snow drift. You wake me up when there's an avalanche. Okay?

**Exercise F: Rhyme Time**

Write the **Word** that best completes each rhyme. This exercise continues on the next page.

- 30. I turned a perfect paper in and waited, proud and eager.  
My teacher said, "Not bad." I thought her praise was rather .....
- 31. The vacuum cleaner doesn't work; there's hardly any suction.  
Something's jammed the hose and has created an .....
- 32. The king got so drowsy he slumped in his throne,  
Put to sleep by advisers who spoke in a .....
- 33. The canyon is deep; you'd be safer, I think,  
If you didn't wear skates to peer over the .....

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34. Whoever builds the strongest bridge is going to win a prize.  
So make a drawing. Get supplies. See what you can . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
35. If colors fade and zippers break on your new pair of slacks,  
The standards at the place where they were made are far too . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise G: Fill-in**

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

36. One small wood stove provided only \_\_\_\_\_ warmth  
against the chill of the night.
37. Uncontrolled hunting managed to \_\_\_\_\_ the great,  
wild buffalo herds that once roamed the West.
38. Cars used to \_\_\_\_\_ down our street until the city  
installed speed bumps.
39. Mara went into a \_\_\_\_\_ when she realized that her  
dinner guests would be arriving in an hour.
40. If a grape gets stuck in your throat, the \_\_\_\_\_ it  
creates can cut off your air supply.
41. Just because a volcano has been \_\_\_\_\_ for many  
years doesn't mean it will never erupt again.
42. Walter is in \_\_\_\_\_ of losing his job because he has  
been late to work so many times.
43. If the police are \_\_\_\_\_ about enforcing speeding  
laws, highways become quite dangerous.
44. Looking down from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the cliff, I could see  
how steep it was.
45. Mom is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ a system that will get us all  
out of the house on time in the morning.
46. It's \_\_\_\_\_ that a field this wet can get dry enough for  
a baseball game this afternoon.
47. Listening to the tires \_\_\_\_\_ on made me drowsy as  
we drove down the highway.
48. When my parents see my terrible report card, they will \_\_\_\_\_  
me for not studying harder.
49. Don't walk barefoot on this floor unless you want to \_\_\_\_\_  
a splinter in your foot.
50. Rudy's statement that cars changed American life was \_\_\_\_\_, but  
I disagreed when he said that all the changes were good.

**Quick LIST**

- annihilate** V.  
**berate** V.  
**brink** N.  
**devise** V.  
**dormant** ADJ.  
**drone** V., N.  
**embed** V.  
**frenzy** N.  
**hurtle** V.  
**improbable** ADJ.  
**jeopardy** N.  
**lax** ADJ.  
**meager** ADJ.  
**obstruction** N.  
**undeniable** ADJ.

**BASSET  
HOUND:**  
Must you  
drone on  
about it?  
I have such  
a headache.