

Lesson 12

absurd *ab•SURD* ADJECTIVE

so clearly untrue, unreasonable, or against common sense as to be laughable; ridiculous [The idea may seem *absurd* today, but people once thought the Earth was flat.]

boycott *BOY•kot*

VERB to join together in refusing to buy, sell, or use a product or service [As long as that company uses child labor, we should *boycott* the shoes it sells.]

NOUN the act of boycotting [The leader of the group called for a *boycott* of lettuce.]

clamber *KLAM•ur* VERB

to climb awkwardly or with effort, especially by using both the hands and feet [We had to *clamber* up the slope with our sleds, but the ride down was great!]

Question: How do you catch a squirrel?

Answer: Clamber up a tree and act like a nut.



divert *duh•VURT* VERB

1. to turn (a person or thing) aside; to change the direction or course of [We made a ridge of dirt and rocks to *divert* the stream.]

2. to amuse or entertain [I tried to *divert* the children by telling them an exciting story.]

forlorn *for•LORN* ADJECTIVE

sad; miserable [Rain ruined the plans for a picnic and left the children *forlorn*.]

haven *HAY•vun* NOUN

any place of shelter or safety [When a storm blew in, an old barn became our *haven*.]

logic *LOJ•ik* NOUN

1. correct reasoning [Logic should convince you that eating less helps a person lose weight.]

2. a way of reasoning, whether correct or incorrect [Would you explain your *logic*?]

reconcile *REK•un•sile* VERB

1. to make friends again [We were always quick to argue but quick to *reconcile*, too.]

2. to make satisfied or content [I had to *reconcile* myself to sharing my room.]

skeptical *SKEP•ti•kul* ADJECTIVE

having or showing doubt; questioning; disbelieving [That boy lies so often that I can't help being *skeptical* about everything he says.]

superfluous *soo•PUR•floo•us* ADJECTIVE

more than is needed or wanted; not needed; unnecessary [Keep your explanation short; leave out *superfluous* details.]

tempo *TEM•po* NOUN

1. the speed at which a piece of music is played [The song's *tempo* was fast.]

2. rate of activity; pace or speed [The guards marched back and forth at a steady *tempo*.]

toxic *TOK•sik* ADJECTIVE

poisonous [Many cleaning product are *toxic* and must be kept away from young children.]

vivid *VIV•id* ADJECTIVE

1. clear and lively; forming clear images in the mind [She included *vivid* details in her story.]

2. bright; intense (said of colors, light, and so on) [Max has beautiful, *vivid* blue eyes.]

3. strong and definite [I have *vivid* memories of the day we moved.]

waver *WAY•vur* VERB

1. to be or become unsteady; to tremble; to sway [When I'm nervous, my voice *wavers*.]

2. to hesitate; to find it hard to decide [Mom has started to *waver* about where we should go on our vacation.]

zoology *zoh•ALL•uh•jee* NOUN

the study of animals, their life, growth, and so on [For her class in *zoology*, Jo keeps a journal of what she sees on her visits to the zoo each week.]

Exercise A: Synonyms

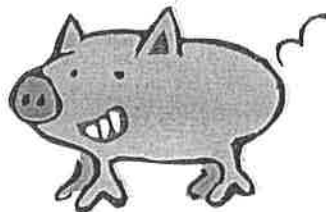
Write the **Word** that could be used in place of each underlined word or phrase.

1. The police set up roadblocks to detour the traffic away from the accident site.
2. The actor's performance was a powerful and precise representation of Abraham Lincoln.
3. We had to scramble up the steep hill because fallen rocks and loose gravel covered the path.
4. Many medicines are seriously harmful or even deadly if too large a dose is taken.
5. After their bitter argument, it took Rita and Joan more than a week to make up.
6. Last night, my little sister got the really silly idea that there was a tiger in her closet.
7. When his only friend moved away, Brad felt abandoned and lonely for weeks.
8. If a ladder you are standing on begins to wobble, you may lose your balance and fall.

Exercise B: What Is It?

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

9. On a trip to study this, you might hear roars and yips and twitters
Because you'd be around a lot of different kinds of critters.
10. This could be a house in France or fort in Delaware.
The only thing for sure is that one finds protection there.
11. If you had to solve a problem, and this is what you used,
The answer you came up with wasn't goofy or confused.
12. If this is really rapid, then your singing may be done
Pretty quickly after when your song was first begun.
13. When a choice is really hard, then you will often find,
That this is what you do instead of making up your mind.
14. If this describes your attitude, then you'll
Be someone who is very hard to fool.



Question: Where do pigs go after they die?

Answer: Hog haven

Exercise C: Completion

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentence.

- ___ 15. In order to **divert** a person, something must be
 A. expensive. B. interesting. C. educational.
- ___ 16. Something that can cause branches to **waver** is
 A. wind. B. sunlight. C. cold weather.
- ___ 17. One bird with **vivid** feathers is a
 A. hawk. B. crow. C. cardinal.
- ___ 18. The **tempo** of life increases when you are
 A. busy. B. sick. C. bored.
- ___ 19. One thing that is **toxic** to bugs is
 A. sugar. B. a screen. C. insecticide.
- ___ 20. If you **reconcile** yourself to an unpleasant situation, you get
 A. angry. B. used to it. C. tired of it.
- ___ 21. It would usually be considered **superfluous** for a person to own two
 A. bicycles. B. shoes. C. pairs of socks.

Quick LIST

- absurd** ADJ.
boycott V., N.
clamber V.
divert V.
forlorn ADJ.
haven N.
logic N.
reconcile V.
skeptical ADJ.
superfluous ADJ.
tempo N.
toxic ADJ.
vivid ADJ.
waver V.
zoology N.

Exercise D: Antonyms

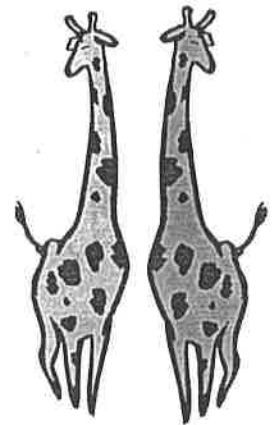
Write the **Word** that is an antonym for each set of words.

22. purchase; shop for; acquire; obtain _____
23. important; required; useful; basic _____
24. trusting; accepting; unsuspecting _____
25. lifeless; boring; vague; blurry _____
26. practical; sensible; realistic; wise _____

Exercise E: True or False

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

27. A grin is a sign that a person feels **forlorn**. TRUE FALSE
28. Toddlers usually have to **clamber** to get up the stairs. TRUE FALSE
29. A **boycott** of a product is likely to increase the product's sales. TRUE FALSE
30. Someone who criticizes your **logic** finds fault with how you think. TRUE FALSE
31. A control tower would **divert** planes by sending them to another airport. TRUE FALSE



Question: Why are giraffes so slow to reconcile after they have a fight?

swallow their pride.
 them a long time to
Answer: It takes

Exercise F: Analogies

Write the letter of the word that completes the analogy.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ 32. <i>haven</i> : protection :: food : | ___ 34. <i>separate</i> : <i>reconcile</i> :: lose : |
| A. pantry C. drink | A. find C. search |
| B. nutrition D. hunger | B. regret D. apologize |
| ___ 33. <i>zoology</i> : science :: algebra : | ___ 35. <i>whimper</i> : <i>forlorn</i> :: snarl : |
| A. school C. workbook | A. soft C. scared |
| B. numbers D. mathematics | B. angry D. satisfied |

Exercise G: Fill-in

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

36. Dipping the oars in the lake made the moonlight _____ on the water.
37. If we get rid of the _____ furniture, this room won't be so cluttered.
38. Bernie hasn't smiled all day; I've never seen him look so _____.
39. A good band varies its _____, playing fast songs and slow ones.
40. Lee was _____ about an ad for new bikes that cost ten dollars.
41. Most superstitions are just _____ fears with no basis in reality.
42. Broken rungs on the ladder forced me to _____ up to the roof.
43. The story was so _____ that we felt as if we knew the characters.
44. Some mushrooms are quite _____, but most are safe to eat.
45. The defending player swung his hand up to _____ the ball from its path toward the basket.
46. Classes in _____ are required for anyone who is studying to become a veterinarian.
47. When my emotions interfere with my _____, I tend to follow my heart instead of my head.
48. Because I want my backyard to be a _____ for birds, I don't let my cat outside.
49. A _____ can be a powerful way to express disapproval of a product or company.
50. It took a few weeks for me to _____ myself to the idea that I couldn't go to camp.

