

Lesson 13

amble AM•bul VERB

to walk in a relaxed and unhurried way [I love to *amble* in the woods in the morning.]

bewilderment bi•WIL•dur•munt NOUN

a state of hopeless confusion [I got off the train at the wrong station and looked around in *bewilderment*.]

buoyant BOY•unt ADJECTIVE

1. having the ability to float or rise in air or a liquid [Lucy's life jacket made her *buoyant*.]
2. having a light and cheerful attitude or spirit [Terry's *buoyant* response to the problem made us all believe it could be solved.]

combustible kum•BUSS•tuh•bul ADJECTIVE

able to catch fire and burn easily [Make sure that the candle flame isn't near anything *combustible*.]

commence kuh•MENCE VERB

to begin; to start [The next game will not *commence* until four o'clock.]

debris duh•BREE NOUN

rubbish, litter, or waste [A big wind blew the garbage cans over, scattering *debris* in the alley.]

embezzle em•BEZ•ul VERB

to steal money that has been left in one's care or that one has been trusted with [The store owner discovered that one of her employees planned to *embezzle* the profits.]

fluent FLOO•unt ADJECTIVE

flowing smoothly; able to speak or write easily and rapidly [Rick speaks *fluent* French.]

gaunt GAHNT ADJECTIVE

very thin and bony in appearance, as from hunger or illness [As the grass died from lack of rain, the cattle became *gaunt*.]

hue HYOO NOUN

a color or a shade of a color [Maria gave the fabric a lovely *hue* by soaking it in tea.]

idle EYE•dul

ADJECTIVE 1. not active or working [There is a lot to do, so none of us can be *idle*.]

ADJECTIVE 2. lazy; unwilling to work [Our *idle* neighbor won't look for a job.]

VERB 1. to do no work [Tomorrow I plan just to *idle* away the hours.]

VERB 2. to run a motor while it is not in gear [If you let the car *idle* awhile, it will warm up.]

pedigree PED•uh•gree NOUN

ancestors or a list of ancestors [Our puppy has sheep dogs in his *pedigree*.]

relinquish ri•LING•kwish VERB

to give (something) up or let go [Your plan is hopeless, and you might as well *relinquish* it.]



THE ISLAND

Three men were shipwrecked on an island. Andy was the first to pick himself up and look around. Nearby was Mandy, gaunt from exhaustion. And there was Randy, his face the greenish hue of someone who has swallowed too much seawater.

Andy's buoyant spirit had often pulled him through bad times, and now he said, "Cool beach, huh?" The others groaned, but in a way that told him they were okay.

salvage SAL•vij

NOUN the rescue of property from destruction or the property that is saved [The flames' heat prevented the *salvage* of any of our belongings.]

VERB to save something from destruction [Divers were able to *salvage* some items from the wrecked ship.]

wretched RECH•id ADJECTIVE

1. extremely unfortunate or unhappy; miserable [The war made their lives *wretched*.]
2. in very poor condition or of very poor quality; terrible [My performance at bat was truly *wretched*.]

Exercise A: Antonyms

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

1. If you _____ along, you'll be late; if you hurry, you'll be on time.
2. Paper is _____, but bricks, metal, and glass are fireproof.
3. Don't try to _____ your possessions, just leave them and get to safety.
4. We didn't feel _____; we felt gloomy and hopeless.
5. The meeting will _____ at two o'clock and end at three.
6. I felt guilty for being _____ while everyone else was so busy.
7. When your turn is over, _____ the bat; don't hold onto it.
8. Some students reacted with _____, but others showed understanding.
9. It surprised me that one twin was _____ while the other was plump.
10. Some of the acts in the show were _____; others were worthy of praise.

"Okay," Andy said, "enough of being idle. We need to salvage what we can from the shipwreck. I suggest we commence a search at dawn."

So they did. Amid the debris in the sand, Andy discovered a book he

had taken along on the trip. It would be good for making a fire. In the surf, Mandy found a box of matches. They might be combustible after they dried. At the jungle's edge, Randy spotted an antique lamp. Although it

seemed useless, he didn't want to relinquish anything that might be helpful. He brought it to the others.

Eyeing it curiously, Andy wiped some sand from the lamp, and it exploded to life.



Exercise B: If...

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

11. If your family speaks Spanish at home, you've always heard it, and you speak it well yourself, this describes your use of Spanish.
12. If you ask about someone's parents and grandparents and so on back a hundred years, this is what you're asking about.
13. If you pick up all the used wrappers, cans, paper plates, and napkins after a picnic, this is what you are cleaning up.
14. If you have been accused of something you didn't do, you would want to "set the record straight" to do this to your reputation.
15. If you take a deep breath and hold it before jumping into a pool, you'll bob up to the surface because the air helps you to be this.
16. If a bank needs to hire a teller, it wants someone who is honest and moral, because no bank wants a teller who might do this.

Exercise C: Questions

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

17. What would you feel if you were told to do a thing but the directions made no sense? _____
18. What are you describing about something when you say it's a brilliant, sky blue? _____
19. What should material for a campfire be but children's pajamas *not* be? _____
20. What describes balloons and inner tubes but *not* bricks and rocks? _____



Exercise D: Synonyms

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

21. goof off; loaf; rest _____
22. shade; tint; dye _____
23. stroll; mosey; wander _____
24. garbage; junk; trash _____
25. skinny; scrawny; starved _____
26. pitiful; poor; sad _____

An oddly dressed man, eight feet tall, floated in front of the three friends. "Ow-ZEEN-ay?" he asked. He spoke in Arabic, and they could only stare at him in bewilderment.

"Kuh-day-zee-ray-VOO?" (French.) "Tee-THEH-leh-teh?" (Greek.) "Wot-iz-yur-WISH?" (English, of course.)

He grinned. "Aha! Though fluent am I not in the English, see I your understanding!" He said he was a genie who had been sealed in the old lamp for a thousand years. For freeing him, each of the men would be granted one wish.

Andy quickly said, "I wish I were home with my family!" And he was gone in a flash. Mandy made exactly the same wish and also disappeared.

Exercise E: Yes or No

Circle YES or NO for each statement.

27. If you **salvage** something, is it ruined? YES NO
28. Are tin cans and bathtubs **combustible**? YES NO
29. Is it against the law to **embezzle** funds? YES NO
30. Does a new year **commence** on January 1? ... YES NO
31. Would your family tree show your **pedigree**? YES NO
32. If you feel **bewilderment**, do you know what to do? ... YES NO
33. Is a **fluent** poem written in a clumsy and awkward way? YES NO
34. Do you **relinquish** your wallet by putting it in your pocket? YES NO
35. Do people often wear more than one **hue** at the same time? YES NO

Exercise F: Fill-in

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

36. The _____ of a few items was possible, but the tornado had ruined almost everything we owned.
37. The peasants led _____ lives of poverty and hunger while the king lived in luxury.
38. An empty plastic cup is _____, but if it fills with water, it will sink.
39. Because gasoline is highly _____, you must be very careful never to light a match near it.
40. The office manager was able to _____ company funds because no one else checked the bank records.
41. Don't try to make my baby brother _____ his teddy bear; he insists on carrying it everywhere.
42. As evening approached, the cows began to _____ toward the barn, stopping now and then to graze.
43. Aunt Ruth's long sickness had made her so _____ that all her clothes were much too big.
44. Our dog doesn't have any papers showing his _____, but we think he's a beagle.
45. Why must I always pick up after you just because you're too _____ to do it yourself?
46. On the first morning in our new house, I woke up in _____, not knowing where I was.
47. My sister spent a year in Rome and became more _____ in Italian than she had been before.
48. It bothers me to see people add to the roadside _____ by throwing stuff out their car windows.
49. At dawn, the horizon was a gorgeous pink _____ with streaks of gold.
50. The game cannot _____ until the umpire says, "Play ball!"

Quick LIST

amble v.
 bewilderment n.
 buoyant adj.
 combustible adj.
 commence v.
 debris n.
 embezzle v.
 fluent adj.
 gaunt adj.
 hue n.
 idle adj., v.
 pedigree n.
 relinquish v.
 salvage n., v.
 wretched adj.



Randy felt wretched. What could he wish for? He didn't have a family, and now he was alone on the island. Then he knew. "I wish," he said, "that my two best friends were here!" And in the blink of an eye, they were.