

LESSON 1

Lesson Preview

Some of the words that you will encounter on pages 1-3 and 4-5 of this lesson appear in bold type in the following paragraph. Read the paragraph, and on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

Many so-called political and economic experts seem more knowledgeable than they are because they make **ambiguous** statements. For instance, you may have heard economists remark that the nation's employment outlook is "promising." Well, how much **expertise** does it take to make a general statement of this sort? Such vague words place the **onus** on the listener to figure out their significance. Why can't the experts be more **explicit**? For example, why don't economists explain exactly what they mean by "promising"?

What is the main idea of this paragraph? Do you agree or disagree with the writer's viewpoint? Why?



LESSON WORDS 1-10: Pronounce the word, spell it, study its meanings, and finish the sentence that follows it. See 1, below.

allegiance (*n.*) devotion to a person, group, or cause; **loyalty**;
 ə-'lĕ-jən(t)s **faithfulness**

1. When I rooted for the (home, visiting) visiting team, some accused me of a lack of *allegiance*.

ambiguous (*adj.*) having two or more possible meanings or interpretations; hard to understand; **obscure**;
 am-'bi-gyə-wəs **indistinct**

2. If the directions say to be sure to (stop, turn) _____ at the intersection, they are *ambiguous*.

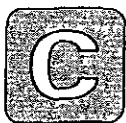
levy (*n.*) money raised or collected by legal authority or force; **tax**;
 'le-vē **impost; assessment**

10. The new *levy* on petroleum will probably (lower, raise) _____ prices at the gas pump.



SENTENCE COMPLETION 1-10: Enter the required lesson words, as in 1, below.

- The people were already so heavily taxed that a further hike in the sales _____ **levy** _____ would have been **insupportable**.
- By his _____ remarks to the crowd at Caesar's funeral, Mark Antony _____ **ed** a revolt against Caesar's assassins.
- Pat found one of my sentences _____, though it had seemed clear to me, and she insisted that I make it more _____.
- We have been _____ fans of the Bulldogs, but if they continue to lose game after game, some of us may transfer our _____ to another team.
- The outcome of an honestly run lottery is _____; no _____ is needed to be a winner, just luck.



VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT 1-10: Read the paragraph, and on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow. Do not repeat any of the underlined words in your answers; use synonyms instead.

Teenage fans of popular music groups are famous for their allegiance. They are ardent both in their support of their favorite performers and in their defense of explicit song lyrics. Fans may admit that certain performers use inflammatory language. However, they will usually deny that such language foments trouble.

- Paraphrase the paragraph.
- Are you an ardent fan of a particular performer? What is it about this performer that has won your allegiance?