

LESSON 2**Lesson Preview**

Some of the words that you will encounter on pages 12–14 and 15–16 of this lesson appear in bold type in the following poem. Read the poem, and on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow

My record is **impeccable**,
Said the politician with a smile.
I'm honest and I'm witty—
A man with substance, brains, and style.

I'd be **distraught** to lose this contest,
But I'll be **jubilant** when elected.
My **staunch** supporters won't let me down—
By voters I won't be rejected!

What is this poem about? Would you vote for this person? Why or why not? How did context clues combined with your personal knowledge and experience help you understand this poem?



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

access (n.) ability, permission, or liberty to enter, approach, communicate with, or use; **admittance**; **entry**
'ak-ses

1. (Landlocked, Island) _____ nations lack direct *access* to the sea.

bristle (v.) become rigid with anger or irritation; **fume**; **seethe**
'bri-səl

2. The mechanic *bristled* at the suggestion that he had done an (outstanding, inadequate) _____ job.

brook (v.) stand for; **tolerate**; **bear**

'brük

3. They want us to be (critical, silent) _____; they will *brook* no interference with their plans.

capricious (adj.) tending to change abruptly and without apparent

kə-'pri-shəs

reason; **fickle**; **inconstant**; **impulsive**;
unpredictable

4. A *capricious* friend can (always, never) _____ be depended on.

certitude (n.) freedom from doubt; **certainty**; **conviction**;

'sər-tə-'tüd

assurance

5. On the basis of the (pain in, X-ray of) _____ my leg, my physician could say with *certitude* that I had sustained a fracture.

complicity (n.) participation or involvement in a wrongful act;

kəm-'pli-sə-tē

collusion; **connivance**

6. Two were (convicted, acquitted) _____ because of their *complicity* in the fraud.

distraught (adj.) deeply agitated; **tormented**; **troubled**

dis-'trót

7. If their young child had been (commended, hurt) _____, the parents would have been *distraught*.

impeccable (adj.) free from fault or blame; **irreproachable**;

im-'pek-ə-bəl

flawless

8. Employees whose work is *impeccable* deserve no (thanks, rebuke) _____.

imperturbable (adj.) not easily excited; **calm**; **unruffled**;

,im-pər-'tər-bə-bəl

unflappable

9. The candidate seems *imperturbable*, but her advisers are (worried, confident) _____.

jubilant (*adj.*) showing or expressing great joy; **exultant**;
'jü-bə-lənt **triumphant**

10. The team that (lost, won) _____ was *jubilant*.

B

SENTENCE COMPLETION 1-10: Enter the required lesson words.

1. We were incredulous when an official with a(n) _____ record was accused of _____ with criminals to defraud the city.
2. The crew became _____ when day after day passed with no sight of land, but their _____ admiral was determined to sail on.
3. The queen _____ **d** when someone seemed to question her authority, and she made it perfectly clear that she would _____ no opposition.
4. The refugees were _____ when they learned that their _____ to asylum would not be blocked.
5. There is no _____ that those who promised to vote for Diana will do so; many people are _____.

C

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT 1-10: Read the dialogue, 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.

Mr. Brody bristled at any hint that he had been involved in the bank robbery. However, the detective was convinced of the man's complicity in the crime.

"As a bank manager, you had access to the vault, did you not?" asked the detective.

"I will not brook any more of your insults," Mr. Brody shouted. "If you think I'm guilty, prove it!"

"That's precisely what I intend to do," said the imperturbable detective

1. Paraphrase the dialogue
2. What evidence would enable the detective to say with certitude that Mr. Brody was guilty?



LESSON WORDS 11-20: Pronounce the word, spell it, study its meanings, and finish the sentence that follows it.

mollify (v.) soothe in temper or disposition; **pacify**; **placate**;
'mä-lə-fī **appease**

11. The manager tried to *mollify* the (contented, irate) _____ customer.

nadir (n.) lowest point; **bottom**; **low**
'nä-dir

12. The Wildcats' luck was at its *nadir* when they found themselves in sole possession of (last, first) _____ place.

nettle (v.) arouse to sharp but brief annoyance or anger; **irritate**;
'ne-tl **provoke**; **exasperate**

13. A hot-headed person is (rarely, easily) _____ *nettled*.

pinnacle (n.) highest point of achievement or development;
'pi-ni-kəl **summit**; **zenith**; **apex**

14. Bad weather impeded the climbers in their (ascent, descent) _____ to the *pinnacle*.

rash (n.) large number of instances in a small period; **epidemic**;
'rash **outbreak**; **plague**

15. It is prudent to (take, avoid) _____ a route noted for a *rash* of recent accidents.

staunch (adj.) steadfast in loyalty or principle; **faithful**; **constant**
'stəntʃ

16. Our *staunch* ally gave us (lukewarm, wholehearted) _____ support.

superlative (*adj.*) of the highest kind or order; **superb**;
 sù-'pər-lə-tiv **outstanding**

17. Everyone on the staff was highly (proficient, incompetent) _____; the service was *superlative*.

tortuous (*adj.*) full of twists, turns, or bends; **winding**;
 'tór-chə-wəs **serpentine**

18. A driver on that *tortuous* road (constantly, rarely) _____ has to turn the steering wheel.

universal (*adj.*) existing or prevailing everywhere; **worldwide**;
 ,yü-nə-'vər-səl **global**

19. The gymnast is (hardly, well) _____ known outside her own country; her fame is *universal*.

virulent (*adj.*) extremely poisonous or venomous; **noxious**;
 'vir-yə-lənt **toxic**

20. To most people, the sting of a (rattlesnake, rebuke) _____ may be painful but not particularly *virulent*.



SENTENCE COMPLETION 11–20: Enter the required lesson words from D, above.

1. My sister was so _____ **d** by my criticism of her Halloween costume that I could do nothing to _____ her.
2. When the ousted executive was at the _____ of his fortunes, he was abandoned by all but a few _____ friends.
3. There has been a _____ of collisions on a _____ stretch of the highway where many drivers disregard the posted speed limits.
4. For her _____ record at the 1976 Olympics, when she was only fourteen, the Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci won _____ acclaim.

5. Alexander the Great was only 33 when he died of a _____ fever at the _____ of his career.

F **VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT 11–20:** 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.

Working for an automobile dealer, Delia had developed excellent “people skills.” However, when the car maker issued an unexpected rash of recalls in a two-month period, her abilities were seriously tested. One angry customer after another called to complain, and Delia had to mollify them all. She could hardly blame them. After all, they had purchased a supposedly superlative vehicle, which they now had to repeatedly bring in for repairs. The experience was certainly the nadir of Delia’s career.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
2. Do you think that Delia would let an irritated customer nettle her? Why or why not?

G **SYNONYMS:** To avoid repetition, replace the boldfaced word with a synonym from the vocabulary list below.

irritate	nadir	unruffled	pacify	superb
certainty	serpentine	global	distraught	entry

1. One company stands head and shoulders above its competitors; its products are **outstanding**.
2. If the building is inaccessible from the main entrance because of repairs, you can gain **access** from the delivery entrance.

1. _____

2. _____

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3. The problem is nettlesome, but it eventually will be solved; in the meantime, don't let it **nettle** you. 3. _____
4. There is a **worldwide** demand for American products; they are used all over the world. 4. _____
5. Experts believed that the recession was bottoming out and that we were already at or near its **bottom**. 5. _____
6. Some will not leave their homes because they are sure they can ride out the storm, but there is no **assurance** they will be able to do so. 6. _____
7. He seemed **troubled**, but we couldn't tell what was troubling him. 7. _____
8. The parents tried to **mollify** the crying infant with a toy, but he refused to be mollified. 8. _____
9. We were on a **winding** road that kept winding into and out of the sunlight, but fortunately we had our sunglasses. 9. _____
10. If our guide was perturbed by the change in the weather, she didn't show it; she seemed **imperturbable**. 10. _____



ANTONYMS: In the blank space in each sentence below, enter the word most nearly the antonym of the boldfaced word or expression. Choose your antonyms from the following list.

exasperate

touchy

zenith

nonpoisonous

defective

constant

straight

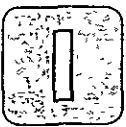
conviction

miserable

bristled

1. Though most protesters **did not get angry** when asked to move on, a few of them _____.

2. We were _____ when our candidates were defeated, but those who had opposed them were **jubilant**.
3. The manager's attempt to **placate** the customers served only to _____ them.
4. It is hard to believe that a **virulent** substance like asbestos was for many years treated as _____.
5. The day he was swept into office by a landslide was the _____ of the legislator's career, and the day he was forced to resign was its **nadir**.
6. Though we tried our best, we have no _____ that what we did was right, and we face the future with **uncertainty**.
7. One would expect a brand-new lamp to be in **impeccable** condition, yet the one I just bought had a(n) _____ switch.
8. The chief is **unflappable**, but his deputies are _____; they take offense at the slightest provocation.
9. We have members who are so **capricious** that one cannot tell where they stand at a given moment; they are not _____ in their views.
10. There are two routes: one is **tortuous** but very scenic; the other is _____ and will get you to your destination faster.



CONCISE WRITING: Express the thought of each sentence in NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS.

1. Pollution can be found in every part of the world.

2. The planning that they did was of the highest order.

3. He had the appearance of someone who was deeply agitated.
