

# LESSON 2

## Lesson Preview

Some of the words that you will encounter on pages 11–13 and 14–15 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.

Some jobs require employees to **alter** their appearance. Instead of sweatshirts and jeans, workers must wear appropriate business **apparel**. **Weird** hairstyles are also frowned upon. Of course, not everyone **interprets** rules in the same way. A hairstyle that one person thinks is perfectly normal may be considered peculiar by someone else.

In Lesson 1's *Vocabulary Skill Builder*, you learned how context clues can help you make inferences about the meaning of unfamiliar words. How can your knowledge and experience help you understand what this paragraph is about?



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

**alter** (v.) make different; **change**; **modify**  
'ol-tər

1. They are (flexible, stubborn) stubborn; they won't *alter* their stand.

**apparel** (n.) outer clothing; **attire**; **dress**; **garb**  
ə-'par-əl

2. You (cannot, can) \_\_\_\_\_ recognize undercover police officers by their *apparel*.

**distort** (v.) twist out of the true meaning; **misrepresent**;  
di-'stɔrt **misstate**; **garble**

3. Reporters who (exclude, include) \_\_\_\_\_ their opinions may *distort* a news story.

**farce** (n.) ridiculous show; **mockery**; **burlesque**  
'fɑrs

4. To punish the (victims, perpetrators) \_\_\_\_\_ of crimes is to turn justice into a *farce*.

**fickle** (adj.) changeable in one's affections, interests, or loyalties;  
'fi-kəl **inconstant**; **capricious**

5. We are (confident, unsure) \_\_\_\_\_ of the support of our *fickle* fans.

**flimsy** (adj.) without strength or solidity; of inferior materials and workmanship; **weak**; **inadequate**; **unconvincing**;  
'flim-zē **thin**

6. She would be (willing, reluctant) \_\_\_\_\_ to alter her opinion if the evidence against it is *flimsy*.

**harbinger** (n.) anything that foreshadows a future event; **omen**;  
'hɑr-bən-jər **forerunner**; **precursor**; **herald**

7. Darkening skies are often *harbingers* of (fair, foul) \_\_\_\_\_ weather.

**interpret** (v.) set forth the meaning of; **explain**; **construe**  
in-'tər-prət

8. We *interpret* a (warm, chilly) \_\_\_\_\_ greeting as a sign of hostility.

**intimate** (v.) make known indirectly; **hint**; **suggest**; **imply**  
'in-tə,māt

9. Their (tepid, enthusiastic) \_\_\_\_\_ support for the compromise *intimates* that they are not too thrilled with it.

10. irrelevant - not relating to the subject