

# Lesson 1

For more practice and games, go to [www.WordlyWise3000.com](http://www.WordlyWise3000.com).



## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**asperity**  
əspər' ə tē

*n.* 1. Sharpness or harshness of manner.  
There was a noticeable **asperity** in her voice as she scolded the children for teasing Andrea.  
2. Roughness of surface; unevenness.  
Running my fingers over the new countertop, I detected a certain **asperity**.

**bane**  
bān

*n.* A person or thing that destroys or causes harm.  
Jonathan's little brother was the **bane** of our slumber party.  
**baneful** *adj.* Causing destruction or ruin.  
Hitler's **baneful** rule ended with his death in 1945.

**buffoon**  
bə fōōn'

*n.* A person who often makes attempts to be funny; a clown; a fool.  
Although he acted like a **buffoon** at parties, Matt was usually rather serious.

**doleful**  
dōl' fəl

*adj.* Mournful or full of sorrow; causing grief.  
The **doleful** look on her face told me she had not gotten the grant to go to the summer program.

**extrovert**  
eks' trə vurt

*n.* A person whose attention is focused on others and on what is going on around her or him, rather than on her or his own feelings.  
Ray is an **extrovert** now, but he was rather shy as a young child.  
**extroverted** *adj.*  
Because she is so **extroverted**, she loves to perform in front of a large crowd.

**garish**  
gār' ish

*adj.* Excessively bright and flashy; tastelessly glaring.  
I told Henry that his tie was too **garish** to wear to a job interview.

**hierarchy**  
hī' ə r ā kē

*n.* A group or system in which positions of power are ranked, usually from lowest to highest.  
In the state government **hierarchy**, the governor is at the top.

**imbue**  
im byoo'

*v.* To fill completely with a feeling or idea; to inspire.  
The really great athletes are **imbued** with a desire to excel.

**instigate**  
in' stə gāt

*v.* To stir up or urge on; to provoke.  
Because Joy was jealous of Dara's friendship with Kim, she **instigated** an argument between them.

**pendant**  
pen' chənt

*n.* A strong attraction or leaning.  
Susan and Carl shared a **pendant** for crossword puzzles and made a ritual of doing them together every Sunday morning.

**rambunctious**  
ram bunj' shəs

*adj.* Behaving in a wild and unruly manner.  
When the puppies get too **rambunctious** in their play, the trainer separates them.

**repertoire**  
rep' ə' twär

*n.* The list of pieces an actor, musician, etc., is ready to perform; the skills or accomplishments of a person or group.  
The band knew most of the requests, but several songs were not part of its **repertoire**.

**rudiment**  
rūō' də mənt

*n.* (usually plural) 1. A basic principle or skill.  
This book teaches the **rudiments** of cooking, but it will not make you a master chef.  
2. An undeveloped or beginning stage.  
The **rudiments** of the club's plan to raise money seemed promising until we discussed them more, at which point we realized how unrealistic they were.

**undermine**  
un' də' mīn

*v.* 1. To weaken or ruin by degrees.  
His smoking habit seriously **undermined** his health.  
2. To attack by indirect, secret, or underhanded means.  
During World War II, the French underground sought to **undermine** the Nazi occupation.

**unremitting**  
un rē' mit' īn

*adj.* Not stopping or slowing down; constant.  
The **unremitting** sounds of the city kept me awake in my hotel room all night.

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## Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. A **doleful** tale is one that expresses sadness or gloom.

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2. A **penchant** is a fondness for something.

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3. One's **repertoire** is one's range of skills or accomplishments.

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4. An **unremitting** effort is one made in a halfhearted manner.

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## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**adjudicate**  
ə jōōd' i kāt*v.* To hear and decide judicially; to judge.Since her case was still being **adjudicated**, the defendant didn't want to speak to the press.**adjudicator** *n.*Anne is trained as an **adjudicator** in marital disputes.**centennial**  
sen ten' ē əl*n.* A one-hundredth anniversary or its celebration.The nation celebrated its **centennial** in 1876, one hundred years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.*adj.* Of or pertaining to a period of one hundred years.A **centennial** fair celebrated the town's one-hundredth birthday.**countenance**  
koun' tə nəns*n.* 1. A person's face; the expression on a person's face.Luke's **countenance** was doleful when he heard the news that the class trip was cancelled.

2. Support or approval.

The measure to abolish bilingual education cannot pass without the party leaders' **countenance**.*v.* To support or approve; to tolerate.The school board will not **countenance** a shorter school day.**disgruntle**  
dis grunt' l*v.* To make dissatisfied; to put in a bad mood.The employees, who haven't been given a raise in over two years, are **disgruntled** with their wages and want an increase in pay.**equilibrium**  
ē kwi lib' rē əm*n.* A state of balance.The United States government is most effective when its executive, legislative, and judicial branches are all working in **equilibrium**.**expedite**  
ek' spə dīt*v.* To speed up a process; to facilitate.The company hired additional workers to **expedite** the delivery of holiday orders.**expeditious** *adj.* With great speed; quick and efficient.Because we were catering two parties back-to-back, we had to work in an **expeditious** manner.**gird**  
gurd*v.* 1. To encircle, bind, or surround.He **girded** his waist with a wide leather belt.

2. To get ready for action; to brace.

As 1941 drew to a close, America **girded** itself for a war of unremitting ferocity.

**gratuitous**  
grə tōō' ət əs

*adj.* 1. Not called for; unnecessary.

The violence in that movie was **gratuitous** because it didn't add to the plot.

2. Without charge; free.

Did you think the skating lessons would be **gratuitous**, or did you expect to pay for them?

**illusory**  
il lōō' sər ē

*adj.* Unreal or imagined; deceiving.

His chances of getting a raise were **illusory** since he had such a poor work record.

**implacable**  
im plək' ə bəl

*adj.* Incapable of being placated, soothed, or significantly changed; relentless.

Despite Gina's apologies, Karen still felt hurt by her friend's betrayal and remained **implacable**.

**luminary**  
lōō' mə ner ē

*n.* 1. A source of light, especially from the sky, such as the sun or moon.

The moon far outshines all other **luminaries** in the night sky.

2. A person who is well known for her or his achievements; a celebrity.

The Academy Awards presentations were attended by many Hollywood **luminaries**.

**manifesto**  
man ə fes' tō

*n.* A public statement explaining the intentions, motives, or views of an individual or group.

In their 1848 Communist **Manifesto**, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels outlined their philosophies about class and economics.

**mesmerize**  
mez' mə r iz

*v.* To fascinate or hypnotize.

The agile, death-defying moves of the trapeze artist kept the audience **mesmerized** during her performance.

**precedent**  
pres' ə dənt

*n.* An act or statement that may serve as an example or justification for a later one.

The successful revolt of the American colonies provided a **precedent** for the French Revolution.

**spurious**  
spyōōr' ē əs

*adj.* Not genuine; false.

**Spurious** reports that Elvis Presley was alive kept appearing in the tabloids.

# Lesson 3

For more practice and games, go to [www.WordlyWise3000.com](http://www.WordlyWise3000.com)



## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**curtail**  
kər tāl'

*v.* To cut short or reduce.

The performance was **curtailed** when a fire broke out in the theater.

**discriminate**  
di skrim' i nāt

*v.* 1. To make or recognize clear distinctions.

During hunting season, it's prudent for hikers to wear orange so that hunters can easily **discriminate** between people and other animals.

2. To treat in a less or more favorable way.

Some employers still **discriminate** against women by paying them less than their male counterparts.

**discrimination** *n.* 1. The recognizing of clear distinctions.

It's helpful to make a **discrimination** between what you think you want and what you really need.

2. The act of making a distinction in favor of or against a person or thing on the basis of the group or category rather than according to actual merit.

Federal law prohibits **discrimination** based on race or creed.

3. The act of making fine distinctions; good or refined taste.

Your penchant for garish attire shows a lack of **discrimination**.

**espionage**  
es' pē ə nāzh

*n.* The act of spying, especially a government spy obtaining secrets of another government.

Counterintelligence specialists use their knowledge of high-tech spying equipment to thwart acts of **espionage**.

**inalienable**  
in əl' yən ə bəl

*adj.* Not able to be taken or given away.

United States citizens are promised certain **inalienable** rights that are spelled out in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

**incarcerate**  
in kār' sər āt

*v.* To confine or to put in prison.

Maximum security prisoners were **incarcerated** on Alcatraz, an island in San Francisco Bay, until 1963.

**incarceration** *n.*

His **incarceration** lasted five years, after which he was a free man.

**indignity**  
in dig' nə tē

*n.* An insult to one's pride; offensive or humiliating treatment.

His mother waited until they got home to reprimand her son, in order to spare him the **indignity** of being criticized in front of his friends.

**indiscriminate**  
in di skrim' i nət

*adj.* Not marked by careful distinctions; haphazard.

She was an **indiscriminate** reader and devoured everything from comics to history books.

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**infamous**  
in' fə məs

*adj.* 1. Having a very bad reputation; notorious.  
The CIA's **infamous** agent, Aldrich Ames, sold compromising information to the Soviets that cost the lives of many Soviet secret agents.

2. Disgraceful; vicious.  
The defendant was charged with an **infamous** crime.

**infamy** *n.* (in' fə mē)  
The assassination of Abraham Lincoln was an act of **infamy**.

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**intercede**  
in tər sēd'

*v.* To act or plead on another's behalf; to try to smooth the differences between two parties.  
Instead of **interceding**, my parents encouraged my brother and me to resolve our differences on our own.

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**malign**  
mə līn'

*v.* To say negative and unfair things about; slander.  
The proprietor thought **maligning** his competitor's products would boost his own sales.

*adj.* Evil; showing ill will.  
The **malign** look he gave me expressed his anger.

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**perpetrate**  
pə' pə trāt

*v.* To commit, as a crime or other antisocial act.  
The con artist was guilty of **perpetrating** a minor scam.

**perpetrator** *n.*  
I couldn't figure out who the **perpetrator** was until the end of the mystery.

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**rampant**  
ram' pənt

*adj.* Threateningly wild, without restraint or control; widespread.  
The **rampant** vines covered the slope and began to climb the surrounding trees.

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**rancor**  
raŋ' kər

*n.* A deep, long-held feeling of hatred or bitterness.  
His **rancor** for the group turned him into its implacable foe.

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**reparation**  
rep ə' rā' shən

*n.* 1. A mending or repair.  
The building needed major **reparation** after the tornado.

2. (usually plural) A making up or payment for a wrong or damage done, especially in the case of an international war.  
Iraq was required to pay **reparations** to Kuwait after the Gulf War.

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**smattering**  
smat' ə' rɪŋ

*n.* 1. Superficial, scattered knowledge.  
He picked up a **smattering** of Spanish while in Mexico.

2. A small amount.  
She wrote thousands of letters, of which only a **smattering** have been published.

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## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**accolade**  
ak' ə lād*n.* An expression of approval or respect for special merit; an award.  
In England, knighthood is a high **accolade** given for service to the state.**adamant**  
ad' ə mənt*adj.* Not yielding; firm.I missed the TV show because of my mother's **adamant** refusal to let me watch television before I'm done with my homework.**adulate**  
a' jōō lāt*v.* To flatter or admire excessively; to idolize.Opera lovers **adulate** the Mexican singing sensation Rosaria Rosario; her performances are often sold out.**adulation** *n.*Members of the crowd showed their **adulation** by giving the performers a standing ovation.**altercation**  
ōl tər kă' shən*n.* A loud and determined dispute; a noisy quarrel.After the hockey player purposely tripped a member of the opposing team, an **altercation** broke out.**annals**  
an' əlz*n. pl.* A historical record of events, often arranged in a yearly sequence.I can easily research the history of my town because its **annals** have been preserved consistently since 1685.**assiduous**  
ə sij' ōō əs*adj.* Diligent and persistent.Maureen was the most **assiduous** researcher in our biology lab.**chary**  
châr' ē*adj.* Exercising caution; hesitant.Be **chary** about making promises that you might not be able to keep.**clique**  
klik*n.* A small, exclusive group; a group held together by like interests or purpose.The new student found it difficult to fit in at the high school because many of the students there belonged to **cliques** that didn't welcome newcomers.**decrepit**  
dē krep' it*adj.* Worn-out with use; broken-down.The **decrepit** buildings were torn down and replaced with a modern apartment complex.**endow**  
en dou'*v.* To provide with a quality, a thing, or a gift of money.Connie was **endowed** with a beautiful singing voice.**endowment** *n.*The college receives much of its support from **endowments** established by alumni.

**ephemeral**  
e fem' ə r ə l

*adj.* Lasting a very short time.  
The pleasures of our few days in the mountains were **ephemeral**, with only a faint memory remaining.

**ingratiate**  
in grā' shē ā t

*v.* To gain the favor of someone through a deliberate effort.  
He attempted to **ingratiate** himself with his teacher by helping out after class.

**pantheon**  
pan' thē ā n

*n.* A group of people held in high esteem for their great achievements.  
Albert Einstein is one of the most famous figures in the **pantheon** of great scientists.

**perverse**  
pər vɜrs'

*adj.* 1. Turned away from what is right; wicked.  
He gets a **perverse** satisfaction from teasing the dog.  
2. Stubbornly opposing what is right or reasonable; obstinate.  
The nineteenth-century French writer George Sand was considered **perverse** in her day because she refused to stay married, wore masculine attire, and had a successful career.

**perversity** *n.*

Her frequent wintertime swims in the ocean, against her doctor's advice, revealed her **perversity**.

**tutelage**  
tūō' tə lij

*n.* Instruction, protection, or guardianship.  
I prepared for the test under the **tutelage** of my math teacher.

4A

### Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. To **endow** a library is to provide money for its upkeep.

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2. A **decrepit** vehicle is one in a state of disrepair.

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3. A **pantheon** is a kind of motor vehicle.

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4. An **altercation** is an angry argument.

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