

Lesson 3



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

allude
a loōd'

v. To refer to in an indirect way (used with *to*).

"I made a mistake that night," he said, **alluding** to the way he lost his temper.

allusion *n.*

The poem "An Ancient Gesture," by Edna St. Vincent Millay, is an **allusion** to Penelope in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

consecrate
kān' sà krāt

v. 1. To set apart as holy.

Hagia Sophia, in Constantinople (today Istanbul), was **consecrated** as a church in 537 and is now a museum.

2. To dedicate to a cause; to devote.

Mother Teresa **consecrated** her life to helping Calcutta's poor.

disseminate
dī sām' i nāt

v. To scatter or spread widely.

The wind **disseminated** the spores from the milkweed pods.

dissemination *n.*

Dissemination of information about the transmission of HIV infection is essential for preventing AIDS.

dote
dōt

v. To show excessive fondness for (used with *on* or *upon*).

She **dots** on her grandson and indulges his every whim.

exhort
eg zōrt'

v. To urge strongly; to warn or appeal.

His wife **exhorted** him to ignore the urgings of the salesman at the boatyard.

exhortation *n.*

The Bhagavad-Gita, a text sacred to Hindus, contains **exhortations** for humans to do their duty.

feckless
fek' lās

adj. Careless or irresponsible.

Pip's **feckless** ways in London left him devoid of cash.

implicate
im' pli kāt'

v. To show to be involved with something, especially something dishonest or illegal.

The defense attorney insisted that her client could not be **implicated** in the theft.

lament
lə ment'

v. To feel or express grief.

Uncountable mourners lined the streets to **lament** the 1997 death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

lamentation (or **lament**) *n.* An expression of sorrow or grief in the form of a poem, song, etc.

"Natalia," sung by Joan Baez, is a **lamentation** for an especially brave political prisoner in the former Czechoslovakia.

monetary
məˈnɛəri

adj. Of or relating to money or currency.
The basic **monetary** unit of Mexico is the peso.

pensive
pɛnˈsɪv

adj. Deep in thought; dreamily thoughtful.
Lying on my back, I grew **pensive** as I watched the drifting summer clouds.

pomp
pɑmp

n. A showy or dignified display.
The commencement exercises at major universities are usually marked by **pomp** and ceremony.

stilted
stɪlˈtɛd

adj. Artificially stiff or formal in manner.
His **stilted** conversation reflected his unease at the gathering of artists in the gallery.

subjugate
sʌbˈdʒʌɡeɪt

v. To bring under control; to conquer.
In the late eighteenth century, Russia **subjugated** the country of Georgia, in western Asia, and made it part of the Russian empire.

subjugation *n.*

The organization Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize for "its efforts on behalf of defending human dignity against violence and **subjugation**."

trauma
ˈtrɔːmə

n. 1. A severe bodily injury.
The accident victims who suffered **trauma** were airlifted to major hospitals for emergency services.

2. Emotional shock.

Nguyen Hui survived the **trauma** of fleeing Vietnam by boat in 1979 and eventually settled in the United States.

traumatic *adj.*

Simply watching on television the devastation resulting from the bombing in Oklahoma City had a **traumatic** effect on me.

wanton
wɑntən

adj. 1. Ignoring what is right.
In refusing to remove asbestos from the ceilings, the company showed a **wanton** disregard for its employees' health and safety.

2. Excessive or unrestrained.

During the holidays, I try to avoid **wanton** eating of sweets.

3. Playful or frolicsome.

It was a pleasure to hear the **wanton** shouts of the children in the backyard.