

Lesson Ten

1. **fallible** (fāl' ə bəl) *adjective* capable of error
Because we are all human, we all make mistakes; therefore, we are all *fallible*.
ant: infallible

2. **fallow** (fāl' ō) *adjective* inactive; unproductive
A *fallow* mind needs to be stimulated.
syn: untrained *ant: fertile, productive*

3. **farcical** (fār' si kəl) *adjective* absurd; ridiculously clumsy
If three people had not been seriously injured, the botched bank robbery would have been *farcical*.
syn: ludicrous, funny *ant: somber, serious*

4. **fatalistic** (fāt' l ɪ s' tɪk) *adjective* believing that all things in life are inevitable, determined by fate
My father used to say that if you have a *fatalistic* attitude about life, you are most likely to think there is nothing you can do to change the course of your life.

5. **fawn** (fōn) *verb* to act slavishly submissive
The young dancers *fawned* over the prima ballerina.
syn: kowtow, grovel *ant: ignore, disregard, neglect*

6. **fealty** (fē' ə l tē) *noun* loyalty; faithfulness
Because serfs owed *fealty* to their lords, disloyalty was punishable by death.
syn: devotion, fidelity, allegiance *ant: disloyalty*

7. **feign** (fān) *verb* to pretend
He *feigned* an interest in the conversation, but his mind wandered elsewhere.
syn: simulate, fake

8. **feisty** (fī' stē) *adjective* aggressive; lively, energetic
Because the tiger cub was small but *feisty*, we approached him warily.
syn: quarrelsome, exuberant, spunky

9. **felicity** (fə lɪ s' ɪ tē) *noun* happiness
A contented person, rich or poor, is more likely to enjoy *felicity* than a discontented one.
ant: unhappiness, discontent

10. **felonious** (fə lō' nē əs) *adjective* of, like, or constituting a felony (major crime)
The boys were charged with *felonious* assault and spent the night behind bars.

11. **fester** (fēs' tar) *verb* to rot; to form pus; to grow embittered
If allowed to *fester*, a feeling of dislike can turn to bitter hatred.
syn: rankle
12. **fiat** (fī' ät) *noun* an official order
After seizing power, the general ruled by *fiat* backed by guns.
syn: decree, authorization
13. **fidelity** (fī dēl' ĭ tē) *noun* faithfulness
The king told his people that their *fidelity* would be rewarded.
syn: loyalty *ant: treachery*
14. **filch** (fīlch) *verb* to steal
The woman *filched* my purse when I left the room to answer the telephone.
syn: pilfer, snitch
15. **filial** (fīl' ē əl) *adjective* due from a son or daughter
The love we have for our parents is termed *filial* love.
syn: dutiful

Exercise I—Words in Context

From the words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

fiats fidelity infallible fealty farcical feigned

- A. The king believed he was _____ and demanded complete _____ from his court. All _____ issued from the throne were to be followed to the letter, no matter how _____ they seemed to be.
- B. Like the others, the Black Knight pledged his _____ to the new king; but it was with a heavy heart, for he thought that the Norman King only _____ an interest in the people of England.

From the words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

felicity felonious fallow filial feisty fawn

- C. He was a _____ young man who questioned everything he was told. So it was a real surprise when he began to _____ over the new female supervisor.
- D. The reign of King Alfred was marked by fruitful harvests and great _____. Lands that had long been _____ now produced abundant crops. _____ attacks by armed highwaymen were ended, and children once again extended respect and _____ love to their parents.

From the words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

fatalistic *fester* *filched*

- E. Although he never _____ a penny in his life, the accusations of theft did not disturb him. He was a _____ man who took whatever life handed him. He felt that if he allowed any resentment to creep into his life, it would begin to _____ and eventually destroy him.

Exercise II—Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Study the entries, and answer the questions that follow.

The root *ped, pod* refers to *foot*.
The root *scop* means *watch*.

The root *phob* means *fear*.
The root *port* means *to carry, bring*.

- A. A creature with two legs is called a _____, but a stand with three legs is called a _____.
- B. If you had a fear of feet, you might be said to have a _____ia; and if you have a fear of enclosed places, you are suffering from _____ia, while a bibliophobe would fear _____.
- C. Give a literal meaning for these words.
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. report | 4. import |
| 2. transport | 5. porter |
| 3. portable | |
- D. You would use a telescope to watch _____ while you would use a microscope to watch _____. But if you want to know the scope of something, you want to see _____.

Exercise III—Analogies

Complete the analogy by choosing the most appropriate word.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. stale : fresh :: | 2. feign : fake :: | 3. immaculate : spotless :: |
| A. correct : reform | A. cake : bake | A. impetuous : impulsive |
| B. take : money | B. file : phial | B. untidy : neat |
| C. patrician : plebeian | C. affirm : deny | C. clever : dishonest |
| D. clear : correct | D. ludicrous : farcical | D. farce : farcical |

Exercise IV—Reading Comprehension

Read the selection and answer the questions.

Gordon Berry says there should be more to children's television than cuddly bears. "We should force children to reach for ideas as we entertain them," said Berry, an educational psychologist who spends a lot of time looking at children's shows and considering their effect on youngsters.

"They need shows with hard-hitting content as well as cuddly bears. Children are not little adults, but we do need to challenge them more. We should challenge them with a range of offerings, and I don't mean to exclude animation because it can also be challenging," Berry said.

He is a professor in the Graduate School of Education at UCLA, where he teaches courses in educational psychology and a course on "Children and Television" in the communications studies area.

"I don't think we have enough diversity in the types of programs that are available," he said. "Children, like adults, need a range of program offerings. They need live-action shows as well as animation."

1. In your own words, state the main idea in this selection.

2. The author states or implies that
 - A. television is a wasteland as far as intellect is concerned.
 - B. young children watch too much television.
 - C. television doesn't challenge the minds of youngsters enough.
 - D. cartoon shows have little value.

3. From this article we might legitimately infer that Berry would also believe that
 - A. parents don't spend enough time with their children.
 - B. parents should read books to young children.
 - C. a divorce, as hard as it is on a child, is preferable to a bad marriage.
 - D. children should be given more responsibility for what they watch.

4. The main problem that Berry sees with children's television is
 - A. too much violence.
 - B. the animated cartoons are completely unbelievable.
 - C. too many of the shows for children are all the same.
 - D. that the television set is on too much and occupies too large a part of a youngster's life.

V. Concepts

1. To pretend to have a genuine interest or concern in something in order to fool or impress someone else.
2. A term used to describe a person who believes that there is no use trying to change or accomplish anything since fate determines the outcome of events.
3. A condition in which one feels filled with great happiness.

VI. Inferences: Choose the answer which best fits the situation.

1. A person most likely to engage in fawning would be
 - A. the owner of a company.
 - B. an accountant.
 - C. a band groupie.
 - D. a movie star.
3. Filial respect refers to the respect we show
 - A. to our brothers and sisters.
 - B. to our parents.
 - C. to reverent and holy people.
 - D. to all people regardless of their station in life.
2. A feisty person would probably not make a good
 - A. policeman.
 - B. diplomat.
 - C. general.
 - D. scientist.

