

LESSON 3

"Good words anoint a man, ill words kill a man."

—John Florio, *First Fruits*

Words to Learn This Week

typical
minimum
scarce
annual
persuade
essential
blend
visible
expensive
talent
devise
wholesale

1. **typical** (tip' ə kəl) usual; of a kind
 - a. The sinister* character in the movie wore a **typical** costume, a dark shirt, loud tie, and tight jacket.
 - b. The horse ran its **typical** race, a slow start and a slower finish, and my uncle lost his wager.*
 - c. It was **typical** of the latecomer to conceal* the real cause of his lateness.
2. **minimum** (min' ə məm) the least possible amount; the lowest amount
 - a. Studies show that adults need a **minimum** of six hours sleep.
 - b. The **minimum** charge for a telephone, even if no calls are made, is about \$60 a month.
 - c. Congress has set a **minimum** wage for all workers.
3. **scarce** (skārs) hard to get; rare
 - a. Chairs that are older than one hundred years are **scarce**.
 - b. Because there is little moisture in the desert, trees are **scarce**.
 - c. How **scarce** are good cooks?
4. **annual** (an' ū əl) once a year; something that appears yearly or lasts for a year
 - a. The **annual** convention of musicians takes place in Hollywood.
 - b. The publishers of the encyclopedia put out a book each year called an **annual**.
 - c. Plants that live only one year are called **annuals**.
5. **persuade** (pər swād') win over to do or believe; make willing
 - a. Can you **persuade** him to give up his bachelor* days and get married?
 - b. No one could **persuade** the captain to leave the sinking ship.
 - c. Beth's shriek* **persuaded** Jesse that she was in real danger.
6. **essential** (ə sen' shəl) necessary; very important
 - a. The **essential** items in the cake are flour, sugar, and shortening.
 - b. It is **essential** that we follow the road map.
 - c. Several layers of thin clothing are **essential** to keeping warm in frigid* climates.
7. **blend** (blend) mix together thoroughly; a mixture
 - a. The colors of the rainbow **blend** into one another.
 - b. A careful **blend** of fine products will result in delicious food.
 - c. When Jose **blends** the potatoes together, they come out very smooth.
8. **visible** (viz' ə bəl) able to be seen
 - a. The ship was barely **visible** through the dense fog.
 - b. Before the stars are **visible**, the sky has to become quite dark.
 - c. You need a powerful lens to make some germs **visible**.
9. **expensive** (eks pen' səv) costly; high-priced
 - a. Because diamonds are scarce* they are **expensive**.
 - b. Margarine is much less **expensive** than butter.
 - c. Shirley's **expensive** dress created a great deal of excitement at the party.
10. **talent** (tal'ənt) natural ability
 - a. Medori's **talent** was noted when she was in first grade.

- b. Feeling that he had the essential* **talent**, Carlos tried out for the school play.
- c. Hard work can often make up for a lack of **talent**.

11. **devise** (də vīz') think out; plan; invent

- a. The burglars **devised** a scheme for entering the bank at night.
- b. I would like to **devise** a method for keeping my toes from becoming numb* while I am ice skating.
- c. If we could **devise** a plan for using the abandoned* building, we could save thousands of dollars.

12. **wholesale** (hō l' sāl) in large quantity; less than retail in price

- a. The **wholesale** price of milk is six cents a quart lower than retail.
- b. Many people were angered by the **wholesale** slaughter of birds.
- c. By buying my eggs **wholesale** I save fifteen dollars a year.

Words in Use

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

An Unusual Strike

The baseball strike of 1994-95, which kept the public from seeing the **annual** World Series, was not a **typical** labor dispute in which low-paid workers try to **persuade** their employers to grant a raise above their **minimum** wage. On the contrary, players who earned millions of dollars yearly, who were **visible** on TV commercials, drove **expensive** autos, and dined with presidents, withheld their **essential** skills until the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our government were forced to **devise** solutions to the quarrel.

The team owners, a **blend** of lawyers, manufacturers, corporate executives, etc., felt that something had to be done about the huge salaries that the players were demanding. Since the **talent** beyond the major leagues was **scarce**, they had to start spring training in 1995 with a **wholesale** invitation to replacement players. The regular athletes returned in late April but there was a feeling that the strike could happen again.

Fill in the Blanks

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below.

1. The March of Dimes makes its _____ appeal in the early spring.
2. Oil paints _____ easily to form thousands of different shades.
3. The _____ passing mark in most schools is 65%.
4. The producer always had her eye out for young _____.
5. Your gifts do not tempt* me and will not _____ me to change my mind.
6. In the cemetery the corpse* was _____ in the bright moonlight.
7. A _____ day in Florida is full of sunshine and warm breezes.
8. Let's _____ a plan for doing away with homework.
9. Everyone agrees that friendship is _____ for all of us.
10. A sharp rise in _____ prices is bound to affect the prices in our neighborhood stores.
11. The buffalo, which once roamed the plains, is quite _____ today.
12. Government experts told us to buy chicken without realizing how _____ it had become.

Answer key, p. 196

Creativity Exercise

Now make up your own sentences, one for each of the new words you have just been taught.

1.

2.

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Spotlight On

expensive—The definition given to you was “costly, high-priced.” Other synonyms could have been provided because English is quite rich in that area. Webster’s *Dictionary of Synonyms*, for example, contains ten entries that explain *expensive* or show us slight variations of the word: *costly*, *dear*, *valuable*, *precious*, *invaluable*, *priceless*, *exorbitant*, *excessive*, *immoderate*. When would you use *costly* as a synonym for *expensive* and when would you use *excessive*?

Picture It

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

