

# Lesson 16

## Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

**alleviate**  
ə lē' vē āt

v. To relieve or make more bearable.  
Gargling with salt water **alleviates** a sore throat.

**antidote**  
an' ti dōt

n. 1. A remedy that relieves the effects of a poison.  
The correct **antidote** for cyanide poisoning is sodium nitrite.  
2. Anything that offers relief from an undesirable condition.  
Her surprise birthday party was an **antidote** to Anzi's losing the tennis match.

**bedlam**  
bed' ləm

n. A very confused and noisy scene.  
**Bedlam** broke out on the factory floor when the plant's closing was announced.

**cajole**  
kə jōl'

v. To urge with gentle and repeated requests; to coax.  
Jillian allowed herself to be **cajoled** into acting as class treasurer.

**glib**  
glib

adj. Marked by an ease in speaking or writing that often shows lack of concern or sincerity.  
The candidate's **glib** responses to questions made it difficult to understand his opinion about raising taxes.

**haggard**  
hag' ərd

adj. Having a tired look; worn out.  
The **haggard** faces of the refugees spoke of many fear-filled days and sleepless nights.

**immaculate**  
i mak' yōō lət

adj. 1. Perfectly clean; spotless.  
The dining room's white linen tablecloths were starched and **immaculate** at the beginning of the reception.  
2. Without a flaw; faultless.  
Her automobile insurance premiums were reduced due to her **immaculate** driving record.

**incessant**  
in ses' ənt

adj. Going on without interruption; continual.  
Last night, we hardly slept because of the **incessant** noise from the apartment downstairs.

**indulgent**  
in dul' jənt

adj. Inclined to give in easily; lenient.  
The **indulgent** parents bought their son almost every computer game that he asked for.  
**Indulge** v. 1. To give in too easily to the wishes of.  
My grandparents loved to **indulge** my brothers and me when they came to visit.  
2. To yield to.  
I **indulged** my craving for something sweet by having an ice-cream cone.

**loll**  
ləl

v. 1. To sit back in a relaxed way; to sprawl.  
I **loll**ed in the hammock for most of that humid summer afternoon.  
2. To hang loosely; to droop.  
After the storm, the seasick passenger's head **loll**ed over the rail of the ship.

**pittance**  
pit' ns

n. A very small amount, especially of money.  
The manager had a difficult time keeping employees because the job paid only a **pittance**.

**pungent**  
pun' jənt

*adj.* 1. Having a sharp taste or smell.  
A **pungent** sauce of pineapple and ginger was served over the pork.  
2. Sharply critical; painfully direct.  
The newspaper editorial contained **pungent** criticism of the committee's proposed cuts in the city's education budget.

**rue**  
rōō

*v.* To feel regret or sorrow over.  
After his outburst, he immediately **rued** his angry words.

**strident**  
strīd' nt

*adj.* Harsh and grating; loud and shrill.  
The counselor's **strident** voice awakened the campers every morning.

**vehement**  
vē' ə mənt

*adj.* Expressing strong feeling; intense.  
Their differing political beliefs sometimes caused **vehement** arguments between the friends.

## 16A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 16. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A pittance is (c) A bedlam is  
(b) a plea for understanding. (d) a confused and noisy place.

2. (a) keep trying to persuade that person. (c) To indulge someone is to  
(b) feel sorry for that person. (d) To cajole someone is to

3. (a) Glib appeals are those (c) that go unanswered.  
(b) that go on repeatedly. (d) Incessant appeals are those

4. (a) a remedy for something harmful. (c) A pittance is  
(b) An antidote is (d) an expression of sorrow or regret.

5. (a) To loll on something is to (c) rely on it.  
(b) To rue something is to (d) lie back in a relaxed way on it.

6. (a) makes excessive demands. (c) An immaculate employer is one who  
(b) gives in to requests very easily. (d) An indulgent relative is one who

alleviate  
antidote  
bedlam  
cajole  
glib  
haggard  
immaculate  
incessant  
indulgent  
loll  
pittance  
pungent  
rue  
strident  
vehement

7. (a) A glib denial is one  
(b) made in a hesitant manner.
- (c) A vehement denial is one  
(d) made with passionate intensity.
- 
8. (a) have a guilty expression.  
(b) To be immaculate is to
- (c) be without a flaw.  
(d) To be strident is to
- 
9. (a) To alleviate something is to  
(b) make it less bothersome.
- (c) make it worse.  
(d) To rue something is to
- 
10. (a) A pungent comment is one  
(b) that is meant to soothe.
- (c) A strident comment is one  
(d) that is sharply critical.

## 16B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 16.

- Jenny could afford few luxuries on the **very small amount of money** she made at her job.
- I now **feel deep regret over** my decision to delay studying until the day before the test.
- I drew back from the open jar of salsa because the smell of the chili pepper was so **sharp and strong**.
- The farmer warned us about the insecticide by reminding us that there is no **substance that can be used as a remedy** for it.
- "Her white dress will not stay **spotlessly clean** for long," thought the child's nursemaid as they left for the birthday party.
- The agent's **smoothly spoken but insincere** assurances didn't convince me that my suitcases would follow me as I changed planes.
- The **loud and high-pitched** cries of gulls fighting over scraps rose from the dock.
- The climbers looked **as if they had endured great hardship** after they'd spent three days on the mountain in a snowstorm.

9. The dog's tongue **hung loosely** from its mouth on that sweltering summer afternoon.
10. When Aunt Bettina comes to visit each year, she enjoys **readily granting the requests of** her favorite niece.

## 16C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. Questions may have more than one correct answer.

- Which of the following adjectives would not describe a **bedlam**?
 

(a) sweltering	(c) humdrum
(b) serene	(d) tumultuous
- Which of the following might make a person look **haggard**?
 

(a) lack of sleep	(c) worry
(b) illness	(d) prudence
- For which of the following might there be an **antidote**?
 

(a) a poison	(c) a snake bite
(b) anxiety	(d) serenity
- Which of the following could be a **pittance**?
 

(a) a small favor	(c) a short distance
(b) a sum of money	(d) a weekly wage
- Which of the following can be **pungent**?
 

(a) a panorama	(c) a rock
(b) an aroma	(d) a comment
- Which of the following might a person **rue**?
 

(a) speaking rudely	(c) joining a conspiracy
(b) heeding sage advice	(d) making an inane suggestion
- Which of the following can be **glib**?
 

(a) an endeavor	(c) a speech
(b) an argument	(d) a manner of walking
- Which of the following might be **indulged**?
 

(a) a desire	(c) a child
(b) a legacy	(d) a tirade

alleviate  
antidote  
bedlam  
cajole  
glib  
haggard  
immaculate  
incessant  
indulgent  
loll  
pittance  
pungent  
rue  
strident  
vehement

## 16D Word Study

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words, then circle the *S* if they are synonyms, the *A* if they are antonyms.

1. mild	vehement	despicable	glib	S	A
2. fitful	contagious	immaculate	filthy	S	A
3. relieve	alleviate	cajole	dread	S	A
4. loll	sprawl	retire	deter	S	A
5. coax	indulge	regret	cajole	S	A
6. glib	incessant	awkward	enigmatic	S	A
7. lenient	synonymous	anonymous	indulgent	S	A
8. miser	philanthropist	artisan	connoisseur	S	A
9. accede	immerse	consent	conjecture	S	A
10. strident	humdrum	meticulous	electrifying	S	A

## 16E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows.

### The Wisdom of Rabbi Rabinowicz

The Jewish people long ago discovered that humor can be an **antidote** for hardship, and this fact is reflected in many of their folk tales. The following story from Russia tells of Moishe, a hardworking but poor tailor, and his wife Sarah. Did I say poor? Truth to tell, Moishe's business brought in barely enough money to pay the rent on their small house and put food on their table.

Moishe's brother Jacob and sister-in-law Martha lived in the next village with their six children. Jacob worked as a roofer, but his earnings never amounted to more than a **pittance**, for—as he never tired of explaining—a roofer can't work in the rain, and when it isn't raining, who needs roof repairs?

One day Jacob came to his brother with a plea for help. He and his family had been evicted from their home and needed a place to stay. Of course, it would be just for a short time. Moishe sympathized with his brother but explained that his house was barely big enough for two. How would eight more people fit into it? But Jacob, though an indifferent roofer, was a **glib** talker. In no time, he had **cajoled** his brother into offering temporary shelter.

Moishe and Sarah felt that their home had been invaded by a small army. The children were allowed to run wild because Jacob and Martha were the most **indulgent** of parents, never correcting them. Their muddy boots trampled dirt all over the floor, and the house, which once had been **immaculate**, became impossible to keep clean. Jacob spent the whole day **lolling** in Moishe's favorite armchair, while Martha's **strident** voice never seemed to need a rest.

Sarah **rued** the day her husband had invited his relatives into their home. As for Moishe himself, he could scarcely sleep at night. When he grew increasingly **haggard**, Sarah became so worried that she sent her husband to Rabbi Rabinowicz for guidance. The rabbi's advice was simple. Knowing that Moishe kept a couple of goats and some hens in his backyard, he told the exhausted man to move the animals into the house. Moishe was puzzled. He could not imagine how such an action would **alleviate** the problem, but since the rabbi was known for his sage counsel, Moishe felt it was not his place to raise objections. Sarah, who had no such qualms, argued **vehemently** against the plan. In the end, neither one was willing to disregard completely the rabbi's recommendation, so they brought the goats and the hens into the house.

If things had been bad before, they were now ten times worse. The hens' **incessant** cackling nearly drove Moishe out of his mind, and the **pungent** odors of the goats were sickening. Poor Moishe's home was in such a **bedlam** that any thought of sleep was impossible. In tears, he returned to the rabbi to ask what to do. The rabbi told him to return the goats and the chickens to the backyard.

Moishe's relief was enormous as he drove the squawking chickens and the stubborn goats out of his house. The rooms suddenly seemed so peaceful that he scarcely noticed the unruly children, his loud-mouthed sister-in-law, and his good-for-nothing brother.

"Peace," he murmured, "it's wonderful! That Rabbi Rabinowicz is a genius."

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. How do you know that Jacob made very little money as a roofer?

---

2. Why was Jacob able to talk his brother into letting him move in?

---

3. Why do you think much Jewish humor deals with hardship?

---

4. Why might it have been unpleasant to listen to Martha?

---

5. Why was Moishe becoming more and more **haggard**?

---

6. What is the meaning of **pungent** as it is used in the passage?

---



7. Why is it inaccurate to say that Sarah was happy to have her brother-in-law's family staying in her home?

8. Why was it impossible to escape the sound of Martha's voice?

9. How do we know that Moishe did not agree right away to Jacob's request?

10. What is the meaning of **immaculate** as it is used in the passage?

11. How did Moishe **indulge** his brother?

12. What is the meaning of **lolling** as it is used in the passage?

13. What seemed to **alleviate** the confusion and noise in Moishe's home?

14. What was Sarah's view of the rabbi's plan?

15. What are some details from the passage that illustrate that **bedlam** reigned in Moishe's home after the arrival of his brother's family?