

# Lesson 7

## Word List

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

### amorous

am' ə r ə s

*adj.* Expressing love or the state of being in love.

The couple exchanged **amorous** glances as they sat across from each other at the dinner table.

### belittle

bē lit' l

*v.* To present or speak of as unimportant or of little value.

"Why do you always try to make your efforts seem more important by **belittling** mine?" she complained.

### censure

sen' shər

*v.* To blame or find fault with.

The judge **censured** the lawyer for failing to file the papers on time.

*n.* A severe criticism or harsh judgment.

A hundred years ago, people who divorced experienced much greater **censure** than they do today.

### deem

dēm

*v.* To consider; to believe.

Hearing about the train derailment, the mayor **deemed** it prudent to call up emergency crews from neighboring counties.

### divulge

də vulj'

*v.* To make known something secret; to reveal.

Blackbeard **divulged** the location of the buried treasure to no one.

### exorbitant

eg zōr' bi tənt

*adj.* Exceeding normal bounds; greater or more than seems reasonable.

Two hundred dollars seems an **exorbitant** price for a man's shirt.

### expostulate

ek spās' chə lāt'

*v.* To argue earnestly in an attempt to dissuade or show strong disapproval.

My friends **expostulated** with me on the wisdom of waiting until daylight to begin my journey.

### fateful

fāt' fəl

*adj.* Having great or significant consequences.

The article examines President Truman's **fateful** decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

### ingrate

in' grāt

*n.* An ungrateful person.

Hanging up the phone, I felt like an **ingrate** for forgetting to thank my mother for carrying in the food and drink for my party.

### injunction

in junk' shən

*n.* 1. An order or command.

When the hurricane warning was announced, my family wisely heeded the **injunction** to evacuate the island.

2. A court order prohibiting someone from doing something.

The **injunction** stated that the company could not hire permanent replacement workers during the strike.

### moribund

mōr' i bund'

*adj.* Close to death; in a dying state.

It is incontrovertible that the company was **moribund** when we took it over last year.

### motif

mō tēf'

*n.* 1. A theme or idea in a work of art or literature that is developed or repeated.

Throughout the novel, the author explores the **motif** of separation.

2. A figure or design repeated in the decoration of something, such as a building or textile.

The wallpaper for the nursery had a rabbit **motif**.

**subsidize**

sub' sə dīz

v. To support by giving financial aid.

The government has **subsidized** countless arts projects, allowing thousands of people to enjoy music, dance, and theater in their hometowns.

**subsidy** *n.* A grant of money, often provided by a government to a group or individual.

Thanks to this **subsidy**, our dance company will be able to perform throughout the state.

**sumptuous**

sump' chəʊ əs

*adj.* Extravagantly splendid or costly; luxurious.

After the wedding we enjoyed a **sumptuous** meal in the hotel dining room.

**voluble**

vôl' yəʊ bəl

*adj.* Characterized by a ready flow of words; talkative.

The **voluble** host scarcely gave his guests a chance to speak.

## 7A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences below. 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 **expostulate** is to become confused or perplexed.

2. A **motif** is a reason for doing something.

3. To **belittle** something is to claim it is less important than it seems.

4. To **subsidize** something is to pay some or all of the cost of it.

5. A **sumptuous** villa is one on which no expense has been spared.

6. To feel **amorous** is to have thoughts of love.

7. An **ingrate** is a person who is not famous.

8. To **divulge** something is to draw its attention elsewhere.

9. A **moribund** organization is one that is not open to outsiders.

10. To **censure** someone is to deny that person the right to speak.

11. A **voluble** person is one who is large in size.

12. To **deem** something impossible is to think that it is so.

13. A **fateful** event is one that is momentous.

14. An **injunction** is forcing a fluid into the body for medical purposes.

15. An **exorbitant** demand is one that is greater than seems reasonable.

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## 7B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

### I. moribund

- (a) The patient, although \_\_\_\_\_, was in no pain.
- (b) Two aspirin did nothing to relieve my \_\_\_\_\_ headache.
- (c) Through gross mismanagement, the organization is now \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. divulge**

- (a) Suzanne and Sam made me promise not to \_\_\_\_\_ their marriage plans.
- (b) At the stoplight, the street \_\_\_\_\_ into a boulevard.
- (c) Joe lifted the lid of the carved box to \_\_\_\_\_ its surprising contents.

**3. subsidize**

- (a) It was four days before the floodwaters began to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) The debate was over whether the taxpayers should \_\_\_\_\_ the giant automaker.
- (c) If I \_\_\_\_\_ you the money, will you promise to repay me?

**4. deem**

- (a) You can accompany the children to the bus stop if you \_\_\_\_\_ it necessary.
- (b) That model has been \_\_\_\_\_ obsolete because this year's version outperforms it.
- (c) Why not \_\_\_\_\_ this coupon for the thirty percent discount it offers?

**5. amorous**

- (a) The soft lights and sweet music put us in an \_\_\_\_\_ mood.
- (b) The swans on the lake entwined their necks in \_\_\_\_\_ play.
- (c) The sonnets are the \_\_\_\_\_ outpourings of the poet's feelings for his wife.

**6. expostulate**

- (a) "I want nothing more to do with you," she \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) "We have \_\_\_\_\_ too much time already on this problem," he declared.
- (c) Jones \_\_\_\_\_ the situation to the students in a calm, methodical manner.

**7. voluble**

- (a) The most \_\_\_\_\_ documents were kept in a safe deposit box at the bank.
- (b) The music was so \_\_\_\_\_ that we had to shout in order to be heard.
- (c) Having a conversation with such a \_\_\_\_\_ person is impossible.

**8. sumptuous**

- (a) What I remember most distinctly from the photographs are the \_\_\_\_\_ furnishings of the castle's bedrooms.
- (b) The stage sets for the new musical are the most \_\_\_\_\_ I have ever seen.
- (c) Jonah's boss promised him a \_\_\_\_\_ raise if he continued to do well.

## 7C Word Study

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

1. VOLUBLE : SPEECH ::

- (a) painful : injury  
(b) blurry : vision

- (c) visible : eye  
(d) flamboyant : dress

2. ORATOR : WORDS ::

- (a) despot : subjects  
(b) house : bricks

- (c) pomp : parades  
(d) musician : notes

3. PROPONENT : EXTOL ::

- (a) information : impart  
(b) sojourn : remain

- (c) defeat : concede  
(d) opponent : belittle

4. INGRATE : GRATITUDE ::

- (a) gambler : luck  
(b) miser : money

- (c) invalid : health  
(d) motif : pattern

5. STRIFE : HARMONY ::

- (a) despot : fear  
(b) alacrity : speed

- (c) adage : maxim  
(d) pomp : simplicity

6. SAGACITY : MIND ::

- (a) emancipation : freedom  
(b) strength : muscle

- (c) encumbrance : burden  
(d) destitution : poverty

7. REASONABLE : EXORBITANT ::

- (a) lacking : deficient  
(b) simple : flamboyant

- (c) sagacious : wise  
(d) healthy : moribund

8. CALLOW : MATURITY ::

- (a) laggard : impetus  
(b) voluble : voice

- (c) sumptuous : display  
(d) amorous : love

9. SPARTAN : COMFORT ::

- (a) fateful : chance  
(b) exorbitant : price

- (c) deficient : lack  
(d) destitute : money

10. HUMBLE : SUMPTUOUS ::

- (a) cynical : skeptical  
(b) voracious : ravenous

- (c) uncertain : dogmatic  
(d) thoughtful : pensive

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## 7D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

### 1. **ingrate**

- (a) By excessive flattery, Simon won the confidence of Mrs. Dalloway.
- (b) After all Rosa did for Jacob, she never got so much as a thank-you.
- (c) The pitch was an easy one, and Hank drove the ball into the bleachers.

### 2. **belittle**

- (a) The Bulldogs came into the game unbeaten, but we cut them down to size.
- (b) "You got an A on that report only because Mom helped you," my brother hissed.
- (c) The original test had fifty questions, but the new version has only thirty.

### 3. **fateful**

- (a) General Lee's decision to charge the Union center at Gettysburg cost him dearly.
- (b) The sinking of the *Lusitania* brought the United States into World War I.
- (c) We met by chance on a flight to Chicago and were married a year later.

### 4. **exorbitant**

- (a) The space probe left Earth's orbit and headed for Mars.
- (b) All week, I've been sleeping twelve to fourteen hours a night.
- (c) I can't believe you paid two dollars for just one grapefruit.

### 5. **censure**

- (a) All letters sent from the war zone were opened and read.
- (b) It was wrong to answer your grandmother so belligerently.
- (c) The population of the United States is counted every ten years.

### 6. **amorous**

- (a) He used the money entrusted to his care to buy an expensive car for himself.
- (b) The amoeba is a one-celled animal that lacks a definite shape.
- (c) They have not spoken to each other since they quarreled a year ago.

### 7. **subsidy**

- (a) The Fulbright scholarship made it possible for Keisha to study abroad.
- (b) Government money helps keep tobacco growers in business.
- (c) My parents let me use their car whenever I come to visit.

8. **motif**

- (a) What possible reason could she have had for doing such a thing?
- (b) Carved roses figure prominently in the woodwork around the fireplaces.
- (c) The search for lost or stolen treasure is a theme that appears often in world folk tales.

9. **expostulation**

- (a) Can't you see that smoking cigarettes is foolish as well as harmful?
- (b) I urge you again to reconsider your decision to stop taking piano lessons.
- (c) Roberts slowly repeated his description of how the engine worked.

10. **injunction**

- (a) The company threatened to disobey the order to stop cutting down trees.
- (b) The mayor refused to allow the students to enter the school in spite of the judge's order.
- (c) There is a leak where the two pipes come together.

## 7E Passage

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

## Artists and Soulmates

When Anita Pollitzer received a batch of charcoal drawings done by an artist friend in South Carolina, an accompanying note told her not to show them to anyone. The work was of value to the artist, but she felt the drawings had little objective merit, and she could not bear the thought of their being **belittled** by strangers. Pollitzer disagreed with her friend's assessment, so disregarding the **injunction** to keep the drawings to herself, she showed them to Alfred Stieglitz, the owner of "291," a Manhattan art gallery. The usually **voluble** Stieglitz was silent as he studied the drawings intently. Their abstract shapes, suggestive of forms in nature, were unlike anything he had seen before. Finally he looked up. "What woman did these?" he asked, for he knew instinctively that they had not been drawn by a man. Pollitzer told him they were the work of her friend Georgia O'Keeffe.

"I think I will give this woman a show," Stieglitz replied.

At the time of this **fateful** conversation in 1916, O'Keeffe was an unknown art teacher in her late twenties, while the fifty-two-year-old Stieglitz had an international reputation as a photographer and art dealer. It was almost entirely due to his efforts that photography had become recognized as one of the fine arts. *Camera Work*, his **sumptuously** printed magazine, first appeared in 1903, and his gallery at 291 Fifth Avenue, which opened two years later, sold photographic prints as works of art. An admirer of the painters Picasso and Matisse long before their work was fashionable, Stieglitz introduced these giants of modern art to the American public.

Stieglitz went ahead with his plan to give "this woman" a show without **divulging** his intention to O'Keeffe. She found out about it by accident on a visit to New York and stalked into the gallery, demanding that the drawings be taken down. Stieglitz calmly ignored her **expostulations** and told her she had no right to withhold her work from the world. The force of his conviction may have made O'Keeffe feel like an **ingrate**, for she withdrew her objection.

In the months that followed, O'Keeffe, who had moved to Texas where she was giving art lessons, was constantly in Stieglitz's thoughts. His letters to her were filled with passionate expressions of concern for her future as an artist, but his words grew increasingly **amorous** as his outpourings received a ready response. Letters passed between them at a furious rate, sometimes as many as five a day. "They knock me down," O'Keeffe wrote to Anita Pollitzer, "but I get up again."

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Stieglitz was waiting to welcome O’Keeffe when she returned to New York in May 1917. The two wanted to marry, but there was one snag. Steiglitz already had a wife. The marriage was **moribund** and Steiglitz intended to get a divorce. This did not save them from the **censure** of many family members and friends who disapproved of the relationship. Stieglitz’s wife came from a wealthy family, and he had used some of her money to **subsidize** his artistic ventures. These funds were cut off, and Steiglitz was reduced to accepting handouts from his brothers to survive. *Camera Work* ceased publication and his gallery closed.

The lean years ended in 1921 with a triumphant exhibition of Stieglitz’s photographs; O’Keeffe had posed for forty-five of them and they created a sensation. O’Keeffe became an instant celebrity and Stieglitz was able to command the **exorbitant** sum of five thousand dollars for a single photograph of her. Two years later he arranged an exhibition of one hundred O’Keeffe paintings and drawings. Twenty sold immediately and O’Keeffe’s career was launched. The next year, following his divorce, she and Stieglitz were married.

The marriage, which ended with Stieglitz’s death in 1946, was marked by long separations as O’Keeffe was drawn increasingly to the American Southwest, the inspiration for much of her art. Sun-bleached skulls in desert landscapes and oversized flowers in extreme close-up are the most common **motifs** in her paintings. She outlived her husband by more than forty years, and when she died, at ninety-eight, her paintings sold for millions of dollars. Today they hang in museums and private collections throughout the United States. Her reputation continues to grow, and today she is **deemed** by most critics the greater artist of the two.

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.

1. Why is the meeting between Pollitzer and Stieglitz described as **fateful**?

2. Why might Pollitzer have had reason to fear O’Keeffe’s **censure**?

3. Why was O’Keeffe taken by surprise when she saw her works exhibited?

4. Why do you think O’Keeffe **expostulated** with Stieglitz about the exhibition of her work?

5. Why is it unlikely that O’Keeffe was living in a very **sumptuous** style in Texas?

6. How did Stieglitz’s **voluble** nature express itself while O’Keeffe was in Texas?



7. How did O’Keeffe respond to Stieglitz’s **amorous** letters?

8. Why might Stieglitz’s first wife have considered him an **ingrate**?

9. Do you think five thousand dollars is an **exorbitant** price for a photograph? Explain.

10. Why did the breakup of Stieglitz’s marriage probably not come as a surprise?

11. Would you say that the **motifs** of O’Keeffe’s paintings are unusual? Why or why not?

12. Why would it be inaccurate to say that O’Keeffe’s paintings are **belittled** today?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

The Latin *orbita* means “track” or “course” and is the root of the word *orbit*, which means “the path of one heavenly body around another;” as, for example, the moon around the earth or the planets around the sun. Combined with the prefix *ex-*, one of whose meanings is “away from,” *orbita* gives us **exorbitant**. If the price of something stays within a range over a period of time and then moves off the track, showing a steep increase, the price has moved away from its accustomed course, and has become exorbitant.

**Fateful** and *fatal* have separate but slightly overlapping meanings. *Fateful* is the more general term, referring to that which has or could have serious consequences. *Fatal* is more specific and means “causing death” or more generally, “causing ruin.” Something can be *fateful* without being *fatal*. (It was a fateful day when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the

Montgomery, Alabama bus.) Something can be *fatal* without being *fateful*. (A candle flame can be *fatal* to moths.) Something can be both *fatal* and *fateful*. An example is the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*, which sank in 1912 with the loss of over 1,500 lives.

The Latin *mori* means “to die” and forms the root of several English words. A *mortuary* is a place where dead bodies are kept before burial; a *mortal* blow is one that causes death; and to be **moribund** is to exist in a state near death. One might think that *morgue*, a synonym for *mortuary*, is formed from the same root, but this is not the case. It comes from an Old French verb, *morguer*, “to look solemnly;” presumably derived from the expressions of those obliged to visit a place where cheerfulness would be inappropriate.