

Lesson 11

For more practice and games, go to www.WordlyWise3000.com.



Word List

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

abbreviate
ə brē' vē āt

v. To shorten by leaving out certain parts.
Main Street can be **abbreviated** to Main St.

abbreviation *n.* (ə brē vē ā' shən) The result of abbreviating.
Mr. Smith is the accepted **abbreviation** for Mister Smith.

appropriate
ə prō' prē ət

adj. Suitable or right for the purpose.
Tennis shoes are not **appropriate** footwear for hiking.

v. (ə prō' prē āt) To set aside for a particular purpose.
Congress **appropriates** money for various programs.

exclude
eks klōōd'

v. To leave out; to keep from being a part of.
The major leagues **excluded** African American baseball players until 1947.

fanciful
fan' si fəl

adj. 1. Not based on reason; unrealistic.
One inventor came up with a **fanciful** scheme to turn water into gasoline.

2. Not real; imaginary.
For Halloween the children dressed up as ghosts, goblins, and other **fanciful** creatures.

futile
fyōōt' l

adj. Certain to fail; hopeless or useless.
Before giving up, we made several **futile** attempts to retrieve the car keys that had fallen into the lake.

grudge
gruj

n. A feeling of resentment.
The boycott was organized by people with a **grudge** against the company.

v. To be unwilling to give.
Do you **grudge** me this food when you see how ravenous I am?

grudging *adj.* Done or said with reluctance.
Everyone knew that such a **grudging** apology could not be sincere.

inspire
in spīr'

v. To fill with emotion or great excitement.
Einstein's discoveries **inspired** me to become a scientist.

inspiration *n.* (in spär ā' shən) The power to affect the mind or the emotions; anything that has this effect.
The sight of leaves falling was the **inspiration** for this poem.

majority *n.* 1. The greater number or part; more than half.
The **majority** of teachers at this school live in town.
2. The amount by which one number of votes is greater than another.
The vote was 97 to 91, a **majority** of six.

persevere *v.* To refuse to give up despite difficulties.
The captives **persevered** in their efforts to escape.
perseverance *n.* Continued efforts in spite of difficulties.
With **perseverance**, spendthrifts can overcome extravagance and stick to a budget.

possess *v.* 1. To have or to own.
The children **possess** three pairs of shoes.
2. To get power or control over.
Fear **possessed** them as the car went out of control.
possession *n.* (pə zesh' ən) 1. The fact of owning or holding.
The will is in the lawyer's **possession**.
2. The thing that is held or owned.
The immigrants arrived with all their **possessions** in a few suitcases.

prejudice *n.* An opinion or strong feeling formed without careful thought or regard to the facts.
The critic's **prejudice** against modern painting showed clearly in the review.
v. To cause to have such a feeling.
A worker's casual attire should not **prejudice** a supervisor against him or her.
prejudiced *adj.* Having such a feeling.
One cannot expect a fair verdict from a **prejudiced** judge.

resolute *adj.* Determined not to give in; unyielding.
The shelter was **resolute** about finding good homes for the kittens.

sneer *v.* To look down on with scorn; to mock or insult by words or manner.
"That was the most mediocre acting I've ever seen," someone **sneered**.
n. A scornful look; a mocking or insulting remark.
I didn't let my companion's **sneers** diminish my enjoyment of the local artists' exhibition.

unanimous *adj.* Without any disagreement.
The motion passed by a **unanimous** vote of 57 to 0.
unanimity *n.* (yoo nə nim' ə tè) The condition of being unanimous.
The committee voted 12 to 0 in a rare display of **unanimity**.

unruly *adj.* 1. Badly behaved.
An **unruly** child in a restaurant can be very annoying to the other diners.
2. Hard to control.
This hair spray might help keep your **unruly** hair in place.