

LESSON 41

Words to Learn
This Week
complacent
wasp
rehabilitate
parole
vertical
multitude
nominate
potential
morgue
preoccupied
upholstery
indifference

“What care I for words? yet words do well
When he that speaks them pleases those that hear.”

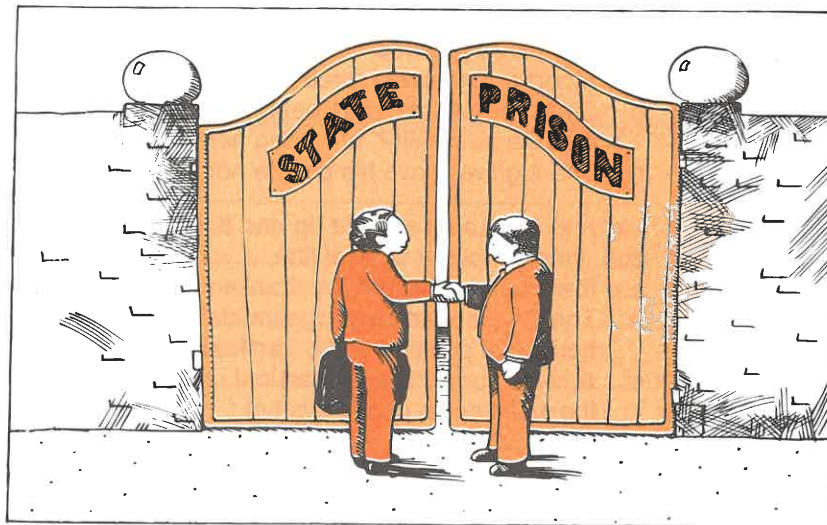
—Shakespeare, *As You Like It*

- complacent** (kəm plā' s'nt) pleased with oneself; self-satisfied
 - Senator Troy denounced* the **complacent** attitude of the polluters* of our air.
 - How can you be **complacent** about such a menace?*
 - I was surprised that Martin was so **complacent** about his brief part in the play.
- wasp** (wäsp) an insect with a slender* body and powerful sting
 - When the **wasps** descended* on the picnic, we ran in all directions.
 - A swarm* of **wasps** attacked us as we were reclining* on the porch.
 - The piercing* sting of a **wasp** can be very painful.
- rehabilitate** (rē hə bil' ə tāt) restore to good condition; make over in a new form; restore to former standing, rank, reputation, etc.
 - The old house was **rehabilitated** at enormous* expense.
 - The former criminal completely **rehabilitated** himself and was respected by all.
 - This wing of the house must be **rehabilitated** promptly,* as there is a danger it will collapse.*
- parole** (pə rōl') word of honor; conditional freedom; to free (a prisoner) under certain conditions
 - The judge **paroled** the juvenile* offenders on condition that they report to him every three months.
 - Since the prisoner has been rehabilitated,* his family is exploring* the possibility* of having him **paroled**.
 - The fugitive* gave his **parole** not to try to escape again.
- vertical** (ver' tə kl) straight up and down with reference to the horizon, for example, a vertical line
 - It wasn't easy to get the drunken man into a **vertical** position.
 - The way to vote for your candidate* is to pull the lever from the horizontal position to the **vertical** position.
 - A circle surrounding a **vertical** line that ends in an inverted V is the well-known peace symbol.*
- multitude** (mul' tə tōd) a great number; a crowd
 - A **multitude** of letters kept pouring in to the movie idol.*
 - The fleeing* culprit* was pursued* by a fierce* **multitude**.
 - Flood victims were aided by a **multitude** of volunteers.*
- nominate** (näm' ə nāt) name as a candidate for office; appoint to an office
 - Three times Bryant was **nominated** for office but he was never elected.
 - The president **nominated** him for Secretary of State.
 - Though Danny was **nominated** last, he emerged* as the strongest candidate.*
- potential** (pə ten' shəl) possibility* as opposed to actuality; capability of coming into being or action
 - Mark has the **potential** of being completely rehabilitated.*
 - The coach felt his team had the **potential** to reach the finals.*
 - Destroying nuclear weapons reduces a **potential** threat* to human survival.*
- morgue** (môrg) place where bodies of unknown persons found dead are kept; the reference library of a newspaper office

- a. There is a slender* chance that we can identify* the body in the **morgue**.
- b. Bodies in the **morgue** are preserved* by low temperatures.
- c. In the **morgue** of the *New York Times* there are biographies* of most famous people.
10. **preoccupied** (prē äk' yu pīd) took up all the attention
- a. Getting to school in time for the test **preoccupied** Judy's mind.
- b. My boss is always **preoccupied** with ways of cutting down on the workers' lateness.
- c. Charity* cases **preoccupied** Mrs. Reynaldo's attention.
11. **upholstery** (up hōl' stər ē) coverings and cushions for furniture
- a. Our old sofa was given new velvet **upholstery**.
- b. The Browns' **upholstery** was so new that we were wary* about visiting them with the children.
- c. One hundred eighty-five dollars was the estimate* for changing the **upholstery** on the dining-room chairs.
12. **indifference** (in dif' ər əns) lack of interest, care, or attention
- a. Allen's **indifference** to his schoolwork worried his parents.
- b. It was a matter of **indifference** to Bernie whether the story circulating* about his engagement was true or not.
- c. My father could not refrain* from commenting on Linda's **indifference** toward her brother's tears.

Picture It

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



Words in Use

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

Where Do We Go from Here?

When we grow too **complacent** with ourselves, along come writers who, **wasp**-like, sting us with reminders of the many problems we face—from **rehabilitating** former prisoners on **parole** to feeding the world's hungry population. Those authors do not see civilization rising almost **vertically** to greater and greater heights. Though a **multitude** of problems beset America, they **nominate** the large urban centers as **potentially** the most dangerous and requiring the most immediate attention. They see the cities as the **morgues** of dead hopes and lost ideals.

We are **preoccupied** with trifles* like the **upholstery** in our homes or personal matters like pension* and benefits, but now we are called upon to contribute to our community on every vital* level—moral,* political, economic. We are not being urged to give up our beloved possessions, but our civilization can be saved only if we overcome the epidemic* of **indifference**. We must begin to live with a new openness to others and a determination to become the best of which we are capable.

Fill in the Blanks

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

- The children shrieked* with fear as the _____ flew over them.
- It is illegal* to _____ prisoners until they have served a minimum* sentence.
- The municipal* council voted to _____ the run-down section of the city and to make it a model residential area.
- Mike Pavonna was the unanimous* choice of the _____ for the office of mayor.
- With all this equipment, we have the _____ to survive* for weeks in the most frigid* climate.
- The worn _____ betrayed* the poverty of the family.
- His family was distressed at Frank's _____ to the normal adolescent* activities.
- Unfortunately,* Carmen was too _____ with dates to devote much time to her studies.
- To start the air circulating,* turn the button to a _____ position.
- Bob was pleased to be _____ for the presidency, but he gallantly* declined in favor of Carole.
- When the security* leak was discovered, the editor called the newspaper _____ to check if there was any precedent* for such a case.
- The winner's _____ smile annoyed some of the members of the audience.

Answer key, p. 169

Synonym Search

Circle the word that most nearly expresses the meaning of the word printed in orange type.

- stung by a **wasp**
(a) remark (b) lunatic* (c) tragedy* (d) traitor* (e) insect
- voters who are too **complacent** to change
(a) self-satisfied (b) assertive (c) bewildered* (d) distressed* (e) juvenile*
- the candidate **nominated** for office
(a) encouraged* (b) underestimated* (c) designated (d) employed (e) motivated
- furniture **upholstery**
(a) material (b) antiques (c) wax (d) style (e) comfort
- rehabilitate** a drug user
(a) punish* (b) unearth* (c) locate* (d) restore (e) upset
- vertical** lines
(a) curved (b) jagged* (c) hidden (d) lengthwise (e) sideways
- preoccupied** with thoughts of the work ahead of him
(a) absorbed (b) affected (c) amused (d) covered (e) lost
- a **multitude** of sins
(a) great number (b) thorough* review (c) total destruction (d) valid* criticism
(e) strong conviction
- potential** earnings
(a) easily financed* (b) economical* and instant (c) possible as opposed to actual
(d) miserly* (e) repeatedly jeopardized*
- bodies kept in the **morgue** for identification
(a) undertaker's establishment (b) camp grounds (c) office building (d) rooming house
(e) health resort
- indifference** to pain
(a) inattention (b) sympathy (c) vulnerability* (d) tendency* (e) prejudice
- out on **parole**
(a) appeal* (b) conditional freedom (c) conflicting evidence (d) confinement
(e) reduced sentence

Answer key, p. 169

Spotlight On

wasp—Newspaper writers enjoy taking the first letters of titles or expressions and constructing a word from them. While a *wasp* is certainly an insect, it also, when spelled *W.A.S.P.*, stands for Women's Air Service Pilots or White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant. Since a *wasp* is not regarded by most people with affection, you can imagine that the acronym (a word made up of first letters of a phrase) was not meant as a compliment to Protestants.