

## LESSON 40

Words to Learn  
This Week  
epidemic  
obesity  
magnify  
chiropractor  
obstacle  
ventilate  
jeopardize  
negative  
pension  
vital  
municipal  
oral

“He hath heard that men of few words are the best men.”

—Shakespeare, *Henry V*

- epidemic** (ep ə dem' ik) an outbreak of a disease that spreads rapidly\* so that many people have it at the same time; widespread
  - All of the schools in the city were closed during the **epidemic**.
  - The depiction\* of violence\* in the movies has reached **epidemic** proportions.
  - During the **epidemic** we were forbidden\* to drink water unless it had been boiled.
- obesity** (ō bēs' ə tē) extreme fatness
  - Obesity** is considered\* a serious disease.
  - The salesman tactfully\* referred\* to Jack's **obesity** as “stoutness.”
  - At the medical convention the topic\* discussed was the prevention of **obesity**.
- magnify** (mag' nə fī) cause to look larger than it really is; make too much of; go beyond the truth in telling
  - A microscope\* is a **magnifying** glass.
  - It seems that Mr. Steinmetz **magnified** the importance of the document\* in his possession.
  - Some people have a tendency\* to **magnify** every minor\* fault in others.
- chiropractor** (kī' rə prak' tər) a person who treats ailments by massage and manipulation of the vertebrae and other forms of therapy on the theory\* that disease results from interference with the normal functioning of the nervous system
  - The **chiropractor** tried to relieve\* the pain by manipulating\* the spinal column.
  - Mrs. Lehrer confirmed\* that a **chiropractor** had been treating her.
  - The **chiropractor** recommended hot baths between treatments.
- obstacle** (əb' sti kal) anything that gets in the way or hinders; impediment; obstruction
  - The soldiers were compelled\* to get over such **obstacles** as ditches and barbed wire.
  - Ignorance\* is an **obstacle** to progress.
  - Prejudice\* is often an **obstacle** to harmony\* among people.
- ventilate** (ven' tl āt) change the air in; purify by fresh air; discuss openly
  - We **ventilated** the kitchen by opening the windows.
  - The lungs **ventilate** the blood.
  - There is merit\* in **ventilating** the topic\* of the prom before the entire senior class.
- jeopardize** (jep' ə r dīz) risk; endanger
  - Soldiers **jeopardize** their lives in war.
  - Mr. Marcos revised\* his opinion of police officers after two of them had **jeopardized** their lives to save his drowning child.
  - Though it **jeopardized** his chance for a promotion,\* Mr. Rafael ventured\* to criticize his boss.
- negative** (neg' ə tiv) saying no; minus; showing the lights and shadows reversed
  - The captain gave a **negative** response\* to the request for a leave.
  - Three below zero is a **negative** quantity.\*
  - A **negative** image is used to print a positive picture.

9. **pension** (pen' shən) regular payment that is not wages; to make such a payment
- Pensions** are often paid because of long service, special merit,\* or injuries received.
  - The **pension** is calculated\* on the basis of your last year's income.
  - Mrs. Colby **pensioned** off her employee after thirty years of loyal\* service.
10. **vital** (vī' tl) having to do with life; necessary to life; causing death, failure or ruin; lively
- We must preserve\* and protect our **vital** resources.
  - Eating is a **vital** function, the obese\* man reminded me.
  - The valiant\* soldier died of a **vital** wound in Iraq.
11. **municipal** (mū nis' əpl) of a city or state; having something to do in the affairs of a city or town
- The state police assisted the **municipal** police in putting down the riot.
  - There was only a mediocre\* turnout for the **municipal** elections.
  - The **municipal** government placed a ban\* on parking during business hours.
12. **oral** (ô' rəl) spoken; using speech; of the mouth
- An **oral** agreement is not enough; we must have a written promise.
  - Oral** surgery is necessary to penetrate\* to the diseased root.
  - His unique\* **oral** powers made Lincoln a man to remember.

## Words in Use

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

### Weight-watchers

Judging from the popularity\* of books on dieting, one would think an **epidemic** of **obesity** is sweeping the nation. Although being fat is not contagious,\* it is a condition not to be sneered\* at since it affects one-fourth of all Americans. Without **magnifying** the problem, professionals concerned\* with the nation's health, from **chiropractors** to medical specialists, agree that being overweight is a major **obstacle** to good health. They point out that people will readily see the need to **ventilate** their homes for fresh air to get rid of vermin\* that may cause disease, but they **jeopardize** their health by eating the wrong foods or the wrong amount of foods.

Coincidentally,\* a recent survey of employment agencies showed that obesity\* has a **negative** effect on a person's chances of landing a job. While the job-seeker is asking about salary and **pensions**, the employer is thinking about the worker's health—and weight is a **vital** consideration when it comes to injuries, disease, and absenteeism.

Some **municipal** jobs, in fact, do require an applicant to be within normal weight range, and one New York bank insists on an **oral** understanding that applicants will take off excess weight. As the *Wall Street Journal* put it, "Fat people often find slim pickings in the job market."

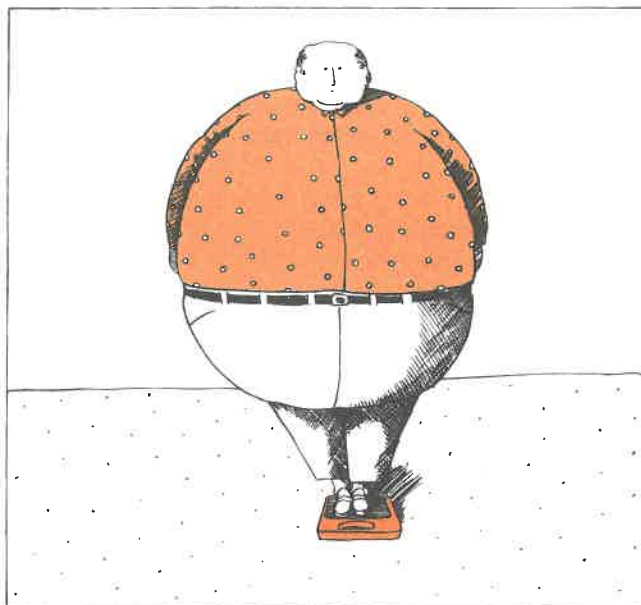
## Fill in the Blanks

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

- Intemperate\* eating habits can lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
- To avoid\* an \_\_\_\_\_, the Surgeon-General ordered a thorough\* study of the situation.
- At a recent\* meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, a new treatment for arthritis was discussed.
- The humid\* air in this room must be \_\_\_\_\_.
- One thousand angry voters loudly signified\* an \_\_\_\_\_ objection to the motion.
- The frightened man tormented\* himself by \_\_\_\_\_ every unpleasant experience into a calamity.\*
- If used as a precedent,\* this verdict\* will prove to be an \_\_\_\_\_ to justice.\*
- Without the \_\_\_\_\_ he had confidently\* expected, Mr. Halcroft faced hardships\* in his retirement.
- The sale of the vacant\* lot for construction of an office building will \_\_\_\_\_ the residential character of the neighborhood.
- Preserve\* the \_\_\_\_\_ in case we need more prints.
- We should all attend the meeting at the \_\_\_\_\_ center, for the issues are of vital\* concern to every citizen.
- The heart and the brain are considered\* the most \_\_\_\_\_ organs in the human body.

### Picture It

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



### 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

**obesity**—Be careful when you refer to your friend's *obesity* that you don't use a word that causes embarrassment. If you call your friend *obese* you'll be using correct medical terminology; however, avoid calling him or her "fat," "chubby," or "corpulent"—words that convey the same idea but in an unpleasant manner.