

LESSON 5

- amaze baffle bear block blur brilliant
 caution challenge delicate enhance intrigue
 persuade replace shed unique
-

amaze v. to fill with great surprise
adv. amazingly *Syn.* astonish
n. amazement
adj. amazing

I was amazed that I received an A on the calculus test.
The actor gave an amazing performance.

baffle v. to confuse to a point at which no
adj. baffling progress can be made
n. bafflement *Syn.* puzzle

The causes of many harmful diseases have baffled doctors for centuries.
That was a baffling question.

bear v. to produce, to carry; to show; to endure
adj. bearably
adj. bearable *Syn.* yield

This orchard bears many fine harvests of apples.
Although stock prices declined, losses have been bearable for most investors.

block v. to prevent movement progress, or
n. blockage success
adj. blocked *Syn.* obstruct

The government blocked the sale of the airline.
The streets were flooded due to a blockage in the pipes.

blur v. to make something difficult to see
adj. blurred *Syn.* cloud
n. blur

The rain blurred everyone's view of the valley.
The whole accident is just a blur in my mine.

brilliant *adj.* intensely bright or colorful, intelligent
adv. brilliantly *Syn.* radiant
n. brilliance

Einstein was a brilliant thinker.
She brilliantly produced a solution to the problem.

caution v. to alert someone of danger, the act of

adj. cautious taking care of, or paying attention to,
adj. cautionary something
adv. cautiously
 n. caution *Syn.* warn

The office cautioned the motorist to slow down.
They entered into the negotiations cautiously.

challenge *n.* an invitation to complete, something that
adj. challenging demands competitive action or much thought
 v. challenge *Syn.* dare

Finishing the 26-mile race was a challenge for most of the participants.
It was a challenging math problem.

delicate *adj.* needing careful treatment, sensitive,
adv. delicately easily broken
 Syn. fragile

Because of its controversial nature, it was a challenge to discuss such a delicate issue
in public.
You must handle the antique delicately.

enhance *v.* to increase in a positive way, such as in
 n. enhancement value, power, or beauty
adj. enhanced *Syn.* strengthen

Passing the exam should enhance your chances of being admitted to college.
The computer enhanced our productivity.

intrigue *a.* to interest greatly
adj. intriguing *Syn.* fascinate
adv. intriguingly
 n. intrigue

He was intrigued by the acclaim that he received.
The intriguing question baffled historians.

persuade *v.* to change a belief or behavior by
adv. persuasively argument or reason
adj. persuasive *Syn.* convince
 n. persuasion

They couldn't persuade their critics to see their point of view.
John presented a persuasive argument for his salary increase.

replace *v.* to change for another thing; to take
adj. replaceable the place of
 n. replacement *Syn.* substitute

They have replaced all of the old office equipment.

The new employee was the replacement for Mr. Topper, who retired last month.

shed v. to throw off naturally, to give out
Syn. discard

In order to grow, crabs must shed their shells.

The experiments shed no new information on the cause of the disease.

unique *adj.* to be the only one of a kind; special
Syn. rare
adv. uniquely
n. uniqueness

He was presented with a unique opportunity to attend the conference.

His style of writing is uniquely his own.

MATCHING

Choose the synonym.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. confront
(A) astonish
(B) challenge
(C) petition
(D) forbid | 6. convince
(A) assert
(B) persuade
(C) restore
(D) yield |
| 2. obstruct
(A) warn
(B) tempt
(C) enhance
(D) block | 7. Rare
(A) determined
(B) ideal
(C) vague
(D) unique |
| 3. intrigue
(A) fascinate
(B) elicit
(C) intensify
(D) enrich | 8. shed
(A) discard
(B) refine
(C) alter
(D) cloud |
| 4. substitute
(A) advantage
(B) replacement
(C) blockage
(D) frail | 9. enhance
(A) entice
(B) strengthen
(C) relinquish
(D) encourage |
| 5. delicate
(A) ambiguous
(B) vital
(C) fragile
(D) resilient | 10. puzzled
(A) advanced
(B) assertive
(C) baffled
(D) astute |

TEST QUESTIONS

Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the underlined word or phrase.

1. Custer was cautioned by his advisors not to underestimate the strength of his opponent.

- (A) challenged
- (B) persuaded
- (C) known
- (D) warned

2. Bright feathers have been used for ornamentation since early times.

- (A) Long
- (B) Unique
- (C) Delicate
- (D) Brilliant

3. Telescopic images from outer space are often blurred by atmospheric conditions.

- (A) clouded
- (B) limited
- (C) enhanced
- (D) blocked

4. The narrow, green-grey leaves of the sweet alyssum are untoothed and usually bear many silvery hairs.

- (A) carry
- (B) yield
- (C) replace
- (D) hide

5. For many years, scientists were baffled by the small size of the atom.

- (A) amazed
- (B) limited
- (C) puzzled
- (D) fascinated