

LESSON 4

ambiguous apparent arbitrary assert astounding
 astute authorize deceptively determined elicit
 forbid petition relinquish resilient tempt

ambiguous

adj. of unclear meaning, something that can be understood in more than one way

adv. ambiguously

Syn. vague

n. ambiguity

The men received an ambiguous message from their boss.

His letter was full of ambiguities.

apparent

adj. to be clear in meaning or open to view, easily understood

adv. apparently

Syn. visible

It was apparent that he needed to rest.

No one apparently knew to solve the problem.

arbitrary

adj. an action or decision made with little thought, order, or reason

adv. arbitrarily

Syn. haphazard

n. arbitrariness

Her choice of clothing seemed arbitrary.

The teacher arbitrarily decided to give the class a test.

assert

n. to express or defend oneself strongly, to state positively

adv. assertively

Syn. declare

n. assertiveness

n. assertion

adj. assertive

The government asserted its control over the banking system.

The company president is an assertive individual.

astounding

adj. very surprising

v. astound

Syn. astonishing

adv. astoundingly

The scientists made an astounding discovery.

The fans were astounded by their team's success.

astute

adj. very intelligent, smart, clever

adj. astutely

Syn. perceptive

n. astuteness

He was an astute worker, finishing in half the time it took the others to finish.

They astutely determined that there would be no chance to finish on time.

authorize v. to give permission or power to do something
adj. authorized
n. authority

Syn. empower

Only authorized employees are allowed in the laboratory.

The dean has the authority to resolve academic problem of students.

deceptively *adv.* to make someone think that something is true or good when it is false or bad
adj. deceptive
v. deceive
n. deception
Syn. misleadingly

The magician deceptively made the rabbit disappear.

Richard deceived Joe about the cost of the coat.

determined *adj.* to be strong in one's opinion, to be firm in conviction
n. determination
v. determine
Syn. resolute

They were determined to go to graduate school.

The judge determined that the man was lying.

elicit v. to get the facts, to draw out, to evoke
n. elicitation
Syn. extract

A lawyer will elicit all the facts necessary to prove her case.

Elicitation of the truth can be difficult at times.

forbid v. to command not to do something
adj. forbidden
adj. forbidding
adv. forbiddingly
to have a dangerous look, bad feeling
Syn. ban

His father will forbid him to use the car.

The cave looks forbidding let's not go in.

petition v. to make a request
n. petition
Syn. appeal

Canada petitioned the United Nations to consider its case.

The student's petition was denied.

relinquish v. to give up control
n. relinquishment
Syn. abdicate

The troubled executive relinquished his control of the company.

The relinquishment of his claim to the building will allow the building to be sold.

resilient *adj.* strong enough to recover from difficulty or

adv. resiliently

n. resilience

She has a resilient personality and will soon feel better.

The doctor was surprised by his patient's resilience.

disease

Syn. tenacious

tempt

adv. temptingly

n. temptation

adj. tempting

The idea of getting rich quickly tempted him to invest his life savings.

Desserts are more tempting when one is on a diet.

v. to make it attractive to do something

wrong

Syn. entice

MATCHING

Choose the synonym.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. appeal
(A) detect
(B) assert
(C) petition
(D) allow | a. misleadingly
(A) abruptly
(B) deceptively
(C) progressively
(D) truly |
| 2. astounding
(A) celebrated
(B) astonishing
(C) visible
(D) energetic | 7. resolute
(A) determined
(B) perfect
(C) renown
(D) perceptive |
| 3. ban
(A) forbid
(B) empower
(C) intensify
(D) restore | 8. resilient
(A) bothersome
(B) vital
(C) unbearable
(D) tenacious |
| 4. elicit
(A) declare
(B) authorize
(C) conform
(D) extract | 9. tempt
(A) entice
(B) divide
(C) discourage
(D) notice |
| 5. abdicate
(A) relinquish
(B) alter
(C) encourage
(D) heighten | 10. vague
(A) intolerable
(B) adverse
(C) beautiful
(D) ambiguous |

TEST QUESTIONS

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

1. Not until 1946 did the world chess governing body, FIDE, assert its control over international championship play.

- (A) declare
- (B) relinquish
- (C) petition
- (D) decrease

2. All classifications of human societies and cultures are arbitrary.

- (A) useful
- (B) haphazard
- (C) insufficient
- (D) ambiguous

3. Paul Newman's apparently effortless acting skill has enabled him to play a variety of characters.

- (A) seemingly
- (B) extremely
- (C) visibly
- (D) deceptively

4. The Monroe Doctrine authorized the United States to intervene in the affairs of Latin American countries in case of foreign invasion.

- (A) empowered
- (B) forbade
- (C) elicited
- (D) tempted

5. J. Edgar Hoover was an astute professional who served as director of the FBI for 48 years.

- (A) perceptive
- (B) resilient
- (C) astounding
- (D) determined