<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alleviate</td>
<td>v. To relieve or make more bearable. Gargling with salt water alleviates a sore throat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>antidote</td>
<td>n. 1. A remedy that relieves the effects of a poison. The correct antidote for cyanide poisoning is sodium nitrite. 2. Anything that offers relief from an undesirable condition. Her surprise birthday party was an antidote to Anzi’s losing the tennis match.</td>
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<tr>
<td>bedlam</td>
<td>n. A very confused and noisy scene or situation. Bedlam broke out on the factory floor when the plant’s closing was announced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>cajole</td>
<td>v. To urge with gentle and repeated requests; to coax. Jillian allowed herself to be cajole into acting as class treasurer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>glib</td>
<td>adj. Marked by an ease in speaking or writing that often shows lack of concern or sincerity. The candidate’s glib responses to questions made it difficult to understand his opinion about raising taxes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>haggard</td>
<td>adj. Having a tired look; worn out. The haggard faces of the refugees spoke of many fear-filled days and sleepless nights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>immaculate</td>
<td>adj. 1. Perfectly clean; spotless. The dining room’s white linen tablecloths were starched and immaculate at the beginning of the reception. 2. Without a flaw; faultless. Her automobile insurance premiums were reduced due to her immaculate driving record.</td>
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<tr>
<td>incessant</td>
<td>adj. Going on without interruption; continual. Last night, we hardly slept because of the incessant noise from the apartment downstairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indulgent</strong></td>
<td>adj. Inclined to give in easily; lenient. The indulgent parents bought their son almost every computer game that he asked for.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indulge</strong></td>
<td>v. 1. To give in too easily to the wishes of. My grandparents loved to indulge my brothers and me when they came to visit.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. To yield to. I indulged my craving for something sweet by having an ice-cream cone.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>loll</strong></td>
<td>v. 1. To sit back in a relaxed way; to sprawl. I loll ed in the hammock for most of that humid summer afternoon.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. To hang loosely; to droop. After the storm, the seasick passenger’s head loll ed over the rail of the ship.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>pittance</strong></td>
<td>n. A very small amount, especially of money. The manager had a difficult time keeping employees because the job paid only a pittance.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>pungent</strong></td>
<td>adj. 1. Having a sharp taste or smell. A pungent sauce of pineapple and ginger was served over the pork.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Sharply critical; painfully direct. The newspaper editorial contained pungent criticism of the committee’s proposed cuts in the city’s education budget.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>rue</strong></td>
<td>v. To feel regret or sorrow over. After his outburst, he immediately rued his angry words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>strident</strong></td>
<td>adj. Harsh and grating; loud and shrill. The counselor’s strident voice awakened the campers every morning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>vehement</strong></td>
<td>adj. Expressing strong feeling; intense. Their differing political beliefs sometimes caused vehement arguments between the friends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 16. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) A pittance is
   (b) a plea for understanding.
   (c) Bedlam is
   (d) a noisy state of confusion.

2. (a) keep trying to persuade that person.
   (b) feel sorry for that person.
   (c) To indulge someone is to
   (d) To cajole someone is to

3. (a) Glib appeals are those
   (b) that go on repeatedly.
   (c) that go unanswered.
   (d) Incessant appeals are those

4. (a) a remedy for something harmful.
   (b) An antidote is
   (c) A pittance is
   (d) an expression of sorrow or regret.

5. (a) To loll on something is to
   (b) To rue something is to
   (c) rely on it.
   (d) lie back in a relaxed way on it.

6. (a) makes excessive demands.
   (b) gives in to requests very easily.
   (c) An immaculate employer is one who
   (d) An indulgent relative is one who

7. (a) A glib denial is one
   (b) made in a hesitant manner.
   (c) A vehement denial is one
   (d) made with passionate intensity.
8. (a) have a guilty expression.  
(b) To be immaculate is to 
(c) be without a flaw.  
(d) To be strident is to 

9. (a) To alleviate something is to 
(b) make it less bothersome. 
(c) make it worse.  
(d) To rue something is to 

10. (a) A pungent comment is one 
(b) that is meant to soothe. 
(c) A strident comment is one 
(d) that is sharply critical. 

16B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 16.

1. Jenny could afford few luxuries on the very small amount of money she made at her job.

2. I now feel deep regret over my decision to delay studying until the day before the test.

3. I drew back from the open jar of salsa because the smell of the chili pepper was so sharp and strong.

4. The farmer warned us about the rat poison by reminding us that there is no substance that can be used as a remedy for it.

5. “Her white dress will not stay spotlessly clean for long,” thought the child’s nursemaid as they left for the birthday party.

6. The agent’s smoothly spoken but insincere assurances didn’t convince me that my suitcases would follow me as I changed planes.
7. The **loud and high-pitched** cries of gulls fighting over scraps rose from the dock.

8. The climbers looked **as if they had endured great hardship** after they'd spent three days on the mountain in a snowstorm.

9. The dog's tongue **hung loosely** from its mouth on that sweltering summer afternoon.

10. When Aunt Bettina comes to visit each year, she enjoys **readily granting the requests of** her favorite niece.

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### Applying Meanings

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following adjectives would not describe **bedlam**?
   - (a) sweltering
   - (b) serene
   - (c) humdrum
   - (d) tumultuous

2. Which of the following might make a person look **haggard**?
   - (a) lack of sleep
   - (b) illness
   - (c) worry
   - (d) prudence

3. For which of the following might there be an **antidote**?
   - (a) a poison
   - (b) anxiety
   - (c) a snake bite
   - (d) serenity

4. Which of the following could be a **pittance**?
   - (a) a small favor
   - (b) a sum of money
   - (c) a short distance
   - (d) a weekly wage

5. Which of the following can be **pungent**?
   - (a) a panorama
   - (b) an aroma
   - (c) a rock
   - (d) a comment
6. Which of the following might a person **rue**?
   (a) speaking rudely
   (b) heeding sage advice
   (c) joining a conspiracy
   (d) making an inane suggestion

7. Which of the following can be **glib**?
   (a) an endeavor
   (b) an argument
   (c) a speech
   (d) a manner of walking

8. Which of the following might be **indulged**?
   (a) a desire
   (b) a legacy
   (c) a child
   (d) a tirade

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**Word Study**

Each group of four words contains either two synonyms or two antonyms. Circle that pair. Then circle the S if they are synonyms or the A if they are antonyms.

1. mild vehement despicable glib S A
   fitful contagious immaculate filthy S A

2. relieve alleviate cajole dread S A
   sprawl retire deter S A

3. coax indulge regret cajole S A
   enigmatic S A

4. glib incessant sincere S A
   lenient S A

5. lenient synonymous S A
   anonymous S A

6. miser philanthropist artisan S A
   conjecture S A

7. accede immerse consent S A
   electrifying S A

8. strident humdrum S A
   meticulous S A

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166 Lesson 16
Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Wisdom of Rabbi Rabinowicz

The Jewish people long ago discovered that humor can be an antidote for hardship, and this fact is reflected in many of their folk tales. The following story from Russia tells of Moishe, a hardworking but poor tailor, and his wife Sarah. Did I say poor? Truth to tell, Moishe’s business brought in barely enough money to pay the rent on their small house and put food on their table.

Moishe’s brother Jacob and sister-in-law Martha lived in the next village with their six children. Jacob worked as a roofer, but his earnings never amounted to more than a pittance, for—as he never tired of explaining—a roofer can’t work in the rain, and when it isn’t raining, who needs roof repairs?

One day Jacob came to his brother with a plea for help. He and his family had been evicted from their home and needed a place to stay. Of course, it would be just for a short time. Moishe sympathized with his brother but explained that his house was barely big enough for two. How would eight more people fit into it? But Jacob, though an indifferent roofer, was a glib talker. In no time, he had cajoled his brother into offering temporary shelter.

Moishe and Sarah felt that their home had been invaded by a small army. The children were allowed to run wild because Jacob and Martha were the most indulgent of parents, never correcting them. Their muddy boots trampled dirt all over the floor, and the house, which once had been immaculate, became impossible to keep clean. Jacob spent the whole day lolling in Moishe’s favorite armchair, while Martha’s strident voice never seemed to need a rest.

Sarah rued the day her husband had invited his relatives into their home. As for Moishe himself, he could scarcely sleep at night. When he grew increasingly haggard, Sarah became so worried that she sent her husband to Rabbi Rabinowicz for guidance. The rabbi’s advice was simple. Knowing that Moishe kept a couple of goats and some hens in his backyard, he told the exhausted man to move the animals into the house. Moishe was puzzled. He could not imagine how such an action would alleviate the problem, but since the rabbi was known for his sage counsel, Moishe felt it was not his place to raise objections. Sarah, who had no such qualms, argued vehemently.
against the plan. In the end, neither one was willing to disregard completely the rabbi’s recommendation, so they brought the goats and the hens into the house.

If things had been bad before, they were now ten times worse. The hens’ incessant cackling nearly drove Moishe out of his mind, and the pungent odors of the goats were sickening. Poor Moishe’s home was in such bedlam that any thought of sleep was impossible. In tears, he returned to the rabbi to ask what to do. The rabbi told him to return the goats and the chickens to the backyard.

Moishe’s relief was enormous as he drove the squawking chickens and the stubborn goats out of his house. The rooms suddenly seemed so peaceful that he scarcely noticed the unruly children, his loud-mouthed sister-in-law, and his good-for-nothing brother.

“Peace,” he murmured, “it’s wonderful! That Rabbi Rabinowicz is a genius.”

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson’s word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. How do you know that Jacob made very little money as a roofer?

2. Why was Jacob able to talk his brother into letting him move in?

3. Why do you think much Jewish humor deals with hardship?

4. Why might it have been unpleasant to listen to Martha?

5. Why was Moishe becoming more and more haggard?
6. What is the meaning of **pungent** as it is used in the passage?

7. Why is it inaccurate to say that Sarah was happy to have her brother-in-law's family staying in her home?

8. Why was it impossible to escape the sound of Martha's voice?

9. How do we know that Jacob kept urging Moishe to let him move in?

10. What is the meaning of **immaculate** as it is used in the passage?

11. How did Moishe **indulge** his brother?

12. What is the meaning of **lolling** as it is used in the passage?

13. What seemed to **alleviate** the confusion and noise in Moishe's home?

14. What was Sarah's response to the rabbi's plan?

15. What are some details from the passage that illustrate that **bedlam** reigned in Moishe's home after the arrival of his brother's family?
• The Greek prefix anti- (meaning "opposite" or "against") combines with the Greek root dosis (meaning "something given") to form **antidote**. Note that **antidote** may be followed by to (a good book is an antidote to boredom), by for (an antidote for snakebite), and by against (friendship as an antidote against loneliness). If you confuse this word with **anecdote** (meaning "a short, interesting, or amusing story of some happening or about a person"), you might be called a Mrs. Malaprop.

• Mrs. Malaprop is a character in a play called **The Rivals** by the eighteenth-century playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. She elicits laughter in the theater by confusing words that are similar in sound but different in meaning. She is the sort of person who says she is going to tell you an amusing **antidote** or offer you what she would call an **anecdote** for a bee sting. Such a misuse of words is called a **malapropism**.

• The Hospital of Saint Mary of Bethlehem in London was for several centuries a kind of prison for the severely mentally ill. In those days there was no effective treatment for such people. As a result, the "hospital" was a very noisy place, filled with confusion and tumult. Over time, the hospital's name was shortened to Bedlam. The "hospital" is long gone, but the word **bedlam**, meaning a condition of noise and confusion, remains.