

Name _____

Lesson 1. People Words 74

There was a famine in China. No one in Wang Lung's family had eaten for several days. The best he could do for his children was to feed them a mixture of earth and water to ease the pain in their stomachs.

At this time, three well-fed strangers from the city came to Wang Lung's farm to buy his land, knowing that he desperately needed money for food. They deliberately offered him only a few pennies per acre. Wang Lung was furious. At that price, he screamed, they would be stealing his land from him. The strangers, however, stood by their offer, saying that they never paid more when buying land from the starving.

Wang Lung is the main character in *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck.

QUESTION: What does the above incident tell us about the strangers?

ANSWER: They didn't care about what is morally right or proper. They had no conscience.

QUESTION: Is there a shorter way to describe the strangers?

ANSWER: Yes. You can do it in one word. They were unscrupulous.

Unscrupulous does the work of many words. It means "without a conscience," or "having no concern for what is morally right or proper."

The words you are about to learn, like unscrupulous, are words that describe people. For this reason, let us call them "people" words.

affluent (*adj.*)

af' loo wənt

wealthy; rich; prosperous; in possession of an abundance of money or property

ant. destitute; indigent

astute (*adj.*)

ə stoot'

shrewd; clever; crafty

ant. gullible

biased (*adj.*)

bi' est

favoring one side too much; partial; prejudiced

ant. impartial

conscientious (*adj.*)

kān' shē en' shəs

1. always trying to do what is right; controlled by conscience (a sense of right and wrong that governs behavior); honest; scrupulous

ant. unscrupulous

2. careful; painstaking; meticulous

destitute (<i>adj.</i>) des' tə tōōt'	lacking necessary things, such as food, shelter, or clothing; extremely poor; impoverished; indigent <i>ant.</i> affluent
frugal (<i>adj.</i>) frōō' g'l	sparing; thrifty; not wasteful <i>ant.</i> lavish
gullible (<i>adj.</i>) gul' ə b'l	easily deceived or cheated; credulous <i>ant.</i> astute
impartial (<i>adj.</i>) im pār' shəl	not favoring one side more than the other; free of bias (prejudice); not partial <i>ant.</i> biased
lavish (<i>adj.</i>) lav' ish	too free in giving or spending; extravagant; prodigal <i>ant.</i> frugal
unscrupulous (<i>adj.</i>) un skrōō' pyə ləs	having no concern for what is morally right or proper; unconscionable <i>ant.</i> conscientious

EXERCISE 1.1: LESSON WORDS. In each blank space, write the most appropriate boldfaced word from the left column of the preceding list. Do not use any of these words more than once. The first answer has been entered as a sample.

1. Janet is frequently short of cash because she is a(n) lavish spender.
2. The refugees lost everything they had in the flood. It left them _____.
3. Dorothy suspected that the umpire was favoring the visiting team, but I did not think he was _____.
4. You don't believe that the vacant house is haunted, do you? Surely, you are not so _____.
5. Millions of people regularly purchase lottery tickets, hoping in this way to become _____.
6. Our neighbors were victimized by a(n) _____ dealer who sold them a used car without telling them about its defects.
7. Before the trial, I favored neither the plaintiff nor the defendant. I was completely _____.

8. The town's reservoirs are low, so we will have to be _____ in our use of water.
9. I made a move that I thought would win the game for me, but my opponent was too _____ to fall into the trap.
10. The guards who were asleep when they should have been on patrol will have a hard time convincing anyone that they are _____ employees.

RELATED WORDS. The lesson words you have just learned have close relatives that we may call related words. Learn the boldfaced related words in the middle column below, together with their meanings.

Lesson Words	Related Words	Meanings of Related Words
affluent (<i>adj.</i>)	affluence (<i>n.</i>)	wealth
astute (<i>adj.</i>)	astuteness (<i>n.</i>)	cleverness
biased (<i>adj.</i>)	bias (<i>n.</i>)	prejudice
conscientious (<i>adj.</i>)	conscience (<i>n.</i>)	sense of right and wrong
destitute (<i>adj.</i>)	destitution (<i>n.</i>)	extreme poverty; indigence
frugal (<i>adj.</i>)	frugality (<i>n.</i>)	thrifty management; thrift
gullible (<i>adj.</i>)	gullibility (<i>n.</i>)	capability of being easily fooled
impartial (<i>adj.</i>)	impartiality (<i>n.</i>)	freedom from bias
lavish (<i>adj.</i>)	lavishness (<i>n.</i>)	extravagance
unscrupulous (<i>adj.</i>)	unscrupulously (<i>adv.</i>)	unconscionably

EXERCISE 1.2: RELATED WORDS. Fill each blank below with the most appropriate related word from the middle column of the preceding list. Do not use any of the related words more than once.

1. That was a clever suggestion you made. I congratulate you on your _____.
2. Joe spends too freely. If he doesn't curb his _____, he will soon be heavily in debt.
3. When Dee found \$10 in the locker room, she took it to the Lost-and-Found Office. Her _____ would not allow her to keep the money.

4. The judge has a reputation for _____. No one has ever accused him of showing favoritism.
5. Our club did not have much money, but it was able to meet its expenses because of the treasurer's _____.
6. A classmate borrowed my notes but did not return them. When I asked for them, she said I never gave them to her. How can anyone act so _____?
7. Our grandparents suffered in the Great Depression of the 1930's. It was a time of widespread _____.
8. At first, I thought the librarian had treated me unfairly, but I realized afterward that she had no _____ against me.
9. P. T. Barnum was convinced of the _____ of human beings. He once said, "A sucker is born every minute."
10. A part of the American dream is the belief that a person who works hard can rise to _____ from poverty.

EXERCISE 1.3: BRAINTEASERS. Each line below ends in a partially spelled word. Fill in the missing letters. The first partially spelled word has been completed as a sample.

1. Mary never wastes anything, but her brother is not so f r u g a l.
2. Have you no sense of right and wrong? Have you no _____ science?
3. To own a yacht, you must be a person of _____ flu _____.
4. When we root for a team, we make no attempt to conceal our _____ a. s.
5. People are fooled sometimes, but they are not always g u l l _____.
6. The refugees had no resources at all. They were totally _____ d i g _____.
7. We did not take sides. We tried to be _____ p a r t _____.
8. She does her work carefully. She is _____ t i c _____.
9. They spend too freely. Why are they so e. x. t. r. a. _____?
10. Peter is very clever. I wish I had his _____ t e n _____.

EXERCISE 1.4: ANALOGIES. Which lettered pair of words—a, b, c, or d—most nearly has the same relationship as the numbered pair? Circle the letter of your answer.

1. POVERTY : AFFLUENCE

- a. anxiety : pain
- c. ecstasy : joy

- b. depression : prosperity
- d. craving : desire

2. IMPARTIAL : BIAS

- a. innocent : guilt
- c. envious : jealousy

- b. furious : rage
- d. remiss : neglectful

3. FRUGAL : EXTRAVAGANCE

- a. blunt : outspokenness
- c. enthusiastic : zeal

- b. humble : arrogance
- d. remorseful : regret

4. GULLIBLE : DECEIVE

- a. persistent : discourage
- c. unintelligible : comprehend

- b. obstinate : persuade
- d. timid : frighten

5. CONSCIENCE : BEHAVIOR

- a. food : nourishment
- c. pollutant : contamination

- b. fuel : warmth
- d. thermostat : temperature