

NAME:

Lesson 2. Fighting Words 74

Mr. Jarvis Lorry, 60, has the difficult task of breaking the news to Lucie Manette, 17, that her father—missing for 18 years and presumed dead—has been rescued from a French prison. Hearing this news, Lucie faints, and Lorry calls for help. A wild-looking red-haired woman enters, grasps Lorry with her brawny hand, and sends him flying across the room. As he is about to hit the wall, he thinks, "This must really be a man!" The assailant is Miss Pross, Lucie's devoted servant. "Couldn't you tell her what you had to tell her," she shouts at him, indignantly, "without frightening her to death?"

Let us call assailant, in the above paragraph, a "fighting" word. An assailant is "someone who attacks with blows or words." Miss Pross, as you have seen, does both. The incident in which she assails Lorry occurs in the early pages of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

Learn the following "fighting words" and their meanings:

aggression (<i>n.</i>) ə gresh' ən	unprovoked attack; warlike act; encroachment by one nation on the territory of another
assailant (<i>n.</i>) ə sāl' ənt	person who assails (violently attacks with blows or words); attacker
belligerent (<i>adj.</i>) bə lij' ər ənt	fond of fighting; warlike; quarrelsome; pugnacious <i>ant.</i> friendly
belligerent (<i>n.</i>) bə lij' ər ənt	nation engaged in a war; person involved in a fight; warrior
implacable (<i>adj.</i>) im plā' kə bəl	unable to be placated (made peaceful); unappeasable; unrelenting; unforgiving <i>ant.</i> placable; forgiving
intimidate (<i>v.</i>) in tim' ə dāt'	✓ make timid (fearful); frighten; scare; discourage from acting by threats or violence <i>ant.</i> calm
invincible (<i>adj.</i>) in vin' sə bəl	incapable of being vanquished (conquered, defeated, or subdued); insuperable; insurmountable <i>ant.</i> conquerable
mercenary (<i>n.</i>) mər' sə ner' ē	soldier serving for pay in a foreign army

mercenary (<i>adj.</i>) mer' sə ner' ē	serving merely for pay or gain; greedy
pugilist (<i>n.</i>) pyōō' ji list	prizefighter; boxer; person who fights with fists
strife (<i>n.</i>) strif	bitter conflict; fighting; discord; antagonism <i>ant.</i> accord; peace
vanquish (<i>v.</i>) vanj' kwish	subdue by superior force; conquer; defeat; overcome

EXERCISE 2.1: 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.

1. My cousin is going into nursing not just for the pay, but because she wants to help the sick. She is certainly not _____.
2. Many a(n) _____ has to give up boxing because of injuries suffered in the ring.
3. One look at the huge, ferocious watchdog is enough to _____ most burglars and keep them from trying to enter the premises.
4. Japan's seizure of Manchuria from China, in 1931, was condemned by the League of Nations as an act of _____.
5. His first impulse when he differs with someone is to quarrel and fight. Why must he be so _____?
6. After losing the first two sets, the champion rallied and went on to _____ his opponent.
7. The victim injured in the attempted robbery gave the police a good description of her _____.
8. Both sides are so _____ that an early settlement of the strike seems unlikely.
9. General Braddock, believing that his troops were _____, paid little attention to Washington's warnings of a possible Indian ambush.
10. The Hundred Years War (1337-1453) between England and France went on for more than a century. It seemed the _____ would never end.

RELATED WORDS. Learn the boldfaced related words in the middle column below, together with their meanings.

Lesson Words	Related Words	Meanings of Related Words
aggression (<i>n.</i>)	aggressor (<i>n.</i>)	person or nation that attacks first
assailant (<i>n.</i>)	assail (<i>v.</i>)	attack with blows or words
	unassailable (<i>adj.</i>)	not open to attack or doubt
belligerent (<i>adj.</i>)	belligerence (<i>n.</i>)	fondness for fighting; pugnacity
implacable (<i>adj.</i>)	implacably (<i>adv.</i>)	unrelentingly
	placate (<i>v.</i>)	make peaceful; appease
intimidate (<i>v.</i>)	timid (<i>adj.</i>)	fearful
	timidity (<i>n.</i>)	fear
invincible (<i>adj.</i>)	invincibility (<i>n.</i>)	unconquerability
pugilist (<i>n.</i>)	pugilism (<i>n.</i>)	boxing

EXERCISE 2.2: 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. Beginning swimmers are usually afraid of the water, but they gradually overcome their _____.
2. Until her recent defeat, Barbara had a reputation for _____. She had never lost an election.
3. A boxer who intentionally fouls an opponent is no credit to the sport of _____.
4. One of the warring nations is now ready to make peace, but the other is _____ opposed to the idea.
5. I didn't start this fight. You were the _____.
6. We have no reason to doubt the information we have received since it comes from a(n) _____ source.
7. Andrea initially rejected the part that was offered to her because she was too _____ to appear on stage, but she later joined the cast.

8. I now realize that I hurt Bill's feelings when I voted against him. He isn't talking to me, and I have been unable to _____ him.
9. The police have found two witnesses who saw the suspect _____ the victim.
10. When the bill comes up for discussion, its opponents will refuse to compromise. They are known for their _____.

EXERCISE 2.3: BRAINTEASERS. Each line below ends in a partially spelled word. Fill in the missing letters.

1. Switzerland stayed out of the war. She was not a(n) _____ rent.
2. Her uncle knows how to box. He once was a(n) _____ list.
3. The fighting has gone on long enough. It is time to end the _____ rifle.
4. Two guards fought off an attack by an armed _____ assail _____.
5. An undefeated champion is hard to v a n _____.
6. Don't be afraid. All is well. There is no reason for t i m i d _____.
7. Our foes refuse to discuss peace. They are _____ cable.
8. Everyone was friendly to us. We encountered no _____ tag _____.
9. Troublemakers seek to create _____ cord.
10. Our neighbors still fight. They have not reduced their _____ city.

EXERCISE 2.4: 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. PUGILIST : RING

- a. dramatist : play
- c. carpenter : wood

- b. actor : stage
- d. conductor : band

2. INVADER : AGGRESSION

- a. liar : credibility
- c. braggart : humility

- b. novice : experience
- d. counterfeiter : forgery

3. UNASSAILABLE : ATTACK

- a. mortal : death
- c. irresponsible : blame

- b. invincible : defeat
- d. despicable : contempt

4. PUGNACIOUS : FIGHT

- a. indolent : work
- c. impatient : wait

- b. selfish : share
- d. curious : learn

5. IMPLACABLE : FORGIVE

- a. unaccommodating : oblige
- c. extravagant : squander

- b. grateful : appreciate
- d. gregarious : socialize

