SAMPLE LESSON

WORDLY WISE 3000® 3rd Edition

Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction
Grades K–12

Book 9: Lesson 5
Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**c allow**
adj. Young and inexperienced; immature.
The student was too **c allow** to know he was being fooled.

**con temporary**
n. A person living during the same period as another.
Martha Jane Canary, known as “Calamity Jane,” and Annie Oakley were **con temporary**.
adj. Existing or occurring at the same time.
The rise in fuel costs was **con temporary** with the demand for alternative fuels.

**cynical**
adj. Doubtful of the sincerity of others’ motives; skeptical.
People become **cynical** about diet programs when lost weight is soon regained.

**cyn ic**
n.
Even though many clients have lied to her, Katharine, a public defender, has not become a **cyn ic**.

**des pot**
n. A ruler with absolute power or tyrannical control over a group of people.
In the late 1970s and early 1980s, thousands fled Haiti seeking refuge from the **des pot** Jean Claude Duvalier.

**des pot ic**
adj.
The Declaration of Independence of the United States asserts the government’s right to overthrow a **des pot ic** ruler.

**en unci ate**
v. 1. To pronounce clearly.
In speech class we learn to **en unci ate** our words.

2. To state; to announce.
The president **en unci ate d** his objectives for the coming year in his State of the Union address to Congress.

**im ped im ent**
n. Anything that gets in the way; an obstacle.
After the hurricane, fallen trees were **im ped im ents** to traffic in our neighborhood.

**im pov er ish**
v. 1. To make poor.
Uncontrolled gambling can **im pov er ish** a person.

2. To take away.
Continual overfarming **im pov er ishes** the soil.

**im pov er ished**
adj.
The Peace Corps is an agency of the United States government that sends volunteers to improve living standards in **im pov er ished** areas of the world.
Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. A **voracious** creature is very hungry.

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**indolent** *adj.* Indulging in ease; avoiding exertion; lazy.
Being in the torrid heat of the tropical sun makes one feel **indolent**.

**indolence** *n.*
His failure to reach his goal certainly cannot be attributed to **indolence**.

**sagacious** *adj.* Showing sound judgment; wise.
My grandmother’s **sagacious** advice has guided me many times over the years.

**sagacity** *n.*
I was amazed when she questioned the **sagacity** of my plan to climb the mountain.

**secular** *adj.* Worldly; not connected with a church or religion.
The choir included a few **secular** songs in the memorial service.

**speculate** *v.* 1. To think about or make guesses.
As we waited, we **speculated** about whether he’d keep his promise and show up.

2. To engage in a risky business venture.
She lost a great deal of money when she **speculated** in the stock market last year.

**strife** *n.* Conflict or struggle.
The **strife** between the two families has existed for a few years now.

**venerate** *v.* To show great respect for.
Asian cultures **venerate** their ancestors long after they have died.

**voracious** *adj.* 1. Ravenous; desiring and eating a large amount of food.
We arrived back from our hike with **voracious** appetites.

2. Greatly eager.
Simon has been a **voracious** reader since childhood.

**wane** *v.* To get smaller, dimmer, or weaker; to near an end.
When interest in sitcoms **waned**, the television networks switched to reality shows.
2. A **sagacious** person is difficult to rouse to action.

___________________________________________________________________

3. A **secular** group is one concerned primarily with spiritual or religious matters.

___________________________________________________________________

4. **Strife** between people is a condition of tranquility.

___________________________________________________________________

5. To **speculate** is to make a precariously monetary transaction.

___________________________________________________________________

6. A **callow** person is someone who is easily frightened.

___________________________________________________________________

7. To **venerate** someone is to hold that person in high regard.

___________________________________________________________________

8. A **despot** is a person who avoids the company of others.

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9. **Indolence** is a state of indecision.

___________________________________________________________________

10. To **enunciate** a principle is to express it clearly.

___________________________________________________________________

11. **Contemporaries** are people living in the same area of the world.

___________________________________________________________________

12. To **wane** is to go from place to place in aimless fashion.

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13. An **impediment** is a barrier or obstruction.
14. A **cynic** is a person who is easily deceived.

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15. To be **impoverished** is to lack sufficient money for one’s needs.

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If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group following it, write the word in the blank space. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. **enunciate**
   (a) She has yet to _____________ the concerns that are motivating her to run for a seat on the school board.
   (b) The letters were so faded that I could not _____________ the message.
   (c) The child _____________ her words as she read the poem to the assembly.

2. **sagacity**
   (a) Pericles, known for his _____________, made ancient Athens an early center of democracy, art, and literature in the fifth century B.C.E.
   (b) The _____________ of the tennis net can be corrected simply by tightening it.
   (c) You’ll be able to squeeze into this jacket because of the _____________ of the fabric.

3. **wane**
   (a) Her strength did not start to _____________ until she was well into her eighties.
   (b) After the moon is full, it begins to _____________.
   (c) His face was so _____________ that I felt something must be the matter with him.

4. **callow**
   (a) As an intern, I produced _____________ work that always had to be checked by my supervisor.
   (b) Those peaches are still too _____________ to be eaten.
   (c) When I was a _____________ schoolboy, I didn’t have the courage to speak my mind.
5. **impoverish**  
(a) The farmers were ________________ by a series of poor harvests.  
(b) Cars and trucks abandoned by the side of the road ________________ the highway.  
(c) Determined that her children not be culturally ________________, she took them frequently to the library.

6. **speculate**  
(a) I’m not prepared to ________________ about what happened to them after they left here.  
(b) Can you prove that they ________________ with the money entrusted to their safekeeping?  
(c) I ________________ the facts for the group in order to help them reach a decision.

7. **strife**  
(a) Our math teacher said that we must ________________ to do better on our next quiz.  
(b) “Jealousy and greed cause much ________________ in the world,” she sighed.  
(c) Frequent ________________ between labor and management in the factory resulted in many work stoppages.

8. **contemporary**  
(a) Advances in biomedical research are ________________ with a growing interest in alternative medicine.  
(b) Sally Ride and Judith Resnik, the first and second women astronauts, were ________________.  
(c) This is just a ________________ arrangement until we come up with something better.
Fill in the missing word in each of the sentences. Then write a brief definition of the word. The number in parenthesis shows the lesson in which the word appears.

1. The prefix con- means “with.” It combines with the Latin tempus (time) to form the English word _________________ (5).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

2. The prefix ex- means “from” or “out.” It combines with the Latin tollere (to lift) to form the English word _________________ (1).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

3. The prefix inter- means “between.” It combines with the Latin mittere (to send) to form the English word _________________ (1).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

4. The prefix in- means “not.” It combines with the Latin superare (to overcome) to form the English word _________________ (1).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

5. The same prefix combines with the Latin dolare (to feel pain) to form the English word _________________ (5).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

6. The Latin vagus means “wandering.” It forms the English word _________________ (1).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

7. The prefix de- means “from.” It combines with the Latin trahere (to draw; to pull) to form the English word _________________ (1).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

8. The Latin vorare means “to devour.” It forms the English word _________________ (5).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

9. The Latin torrere means “to parch.” It forms the English word _________________ (2).
   Definition: ____________________________________________________________

10. The Latin visus means “appearance.” It forms the English word _________________ (1).
    Definition: ____________________________________________________________
Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. indolence
   (a) We didn’t have to lift a finger the whole time we were there.
   (b) Mr. Badger opened one eye. “Go away,” he said and resumed his nap.
   (c) “Why did you slam that door as you left?” she asked critically.

2. voracious
   (a) “I don’t think you are being truthful,” asserted Isaiah.
   (b) “Take away their plates,” Alice cried, “before they eat them, too!”
   (c) Simone spends all her babysitting money on science fiction.

3. contemporary
   (a) Listening to my friend Jody has taught me a great deal.
   (b) It will be another two years before the bridge is completed.
   (c) He was available to work for only a few months, so he did substitute teaching.

4. venerate
   (a) Many Indian people hold Mahatma Gandhi in high regard.
   (b) The monks bowd low before the massive statue of the reclining Buddha in Bangkok.
   (c) This ring has been in my family for four generations.

5. cynic
   (a) Don’t pay full price for computer parts; I can get them wholesale.
   (b) “You’re so egotistical,” she said. “You think you’re so great!”
   (c) Some people think that politicians care about just one thing: getting reelected.

6. speculate
   (a) Joannie told me she spends twenty dollars a week on lottery tickets.
   (b) In fifty years, gasoline-powered cars will be a thing of the past.
   (c) I expect gold to double in price within two years, so I’m buying it now.

7. despot
   (a) The rule in our house is “If you don’t eat your vegetables, you can’t have any dessert.”
   (b) “Off with his head!” was a frequent order issued by the Queen of Hearts in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.
   (c) In the novel, the prince ordered every male in the kingdom to shave off his beard.

8. secular
   (a) Dellison is an old private school that has never been affiliated with any religious group.
   (b) Those serving on the commission were paid a dollar a year.
   (c) She hoped to be reunited with her sister.
9. impediment
   (a) The mayor laid the foundation stone of the new hospital.
   (b) The crafts fair was held indoors this year because of the bad weather.
   (c) Not speaking the language put me at a disadvantage.

10. enunciate
   (a) Elocution lessons are intended to sharpen one’s vocal delivery.
   (b) In the musical *My Fair Lady*, Eliza Doolittle learns to speak English with graceful
       clarity and impeccable grammar.
   (c) “He did it!” she cried, pointing at the trembling figure before her.

5E Passage

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

**Ideas That Endure**

The greatest educators are those whose lessons are still remembered centuries
after their deaths. Among this select group, few stand higher than the Chinese sage
Confucius. He was the first to *enunciate* the Golden Rule—treat others as you would
have them treat you.

Confucius was born into a noble but *impoverished* family in 551 B.C.E. in what
is now the province of Shantung. His father died when he was three; as a young man
he worked as a herder and storekeeper in order to support himself and his widowed
mother. Unable to pay for a formal education, he became a *voracious* reader whose
wide and deep learning soon earned him a formidable reputation as a scholar.

Hired as a tutor to the sons of the wealthy, he decided to open his own school.
A willingness to learn was the only requirement; lack of money was no *impediment*
since Confucius required the wealthier parents to pay for the education of the poorer
students. Many of his students went on to hold important government offices,
thereby adding to his reputation as a man of learning and moral character. Almost all
who knew Confucius extolled his virtues.

An exception to these admirers was Lao-tzu, a man whose writings are second
only to those of Confucius in their impact on China. The two men met when
Confucius was in his early thirties. Lao-tzu was more than fifty years his senior.
Confucius was deeply impressed by the older man’s wisdom, but Lao-tzu, *venerated*
as the founder of the religion of Taoism, thought the younger man *callow*. This
judgment is not surprising, for Lao-tzu’s concerns were spiritual, while Confucius’s
thoughts were focused largely on *secular* matters. For example, Confucius declined
to discuss whether the soul survives the death of the body. His position was that
since one cannot understand the meaning of life, there is no point in *speculating*
about the mystery of death.
Confucius’s concern had always been with such practical questions as how to achieve good government and how best to conduct relations within the family and between individuals. His answer to both questions was *li*, translated as “good manners.” That meant those in authority, whether in government or in the family, must show respect to those beneath them. The ideas of Confucius were particularly appropriate for his time because during that period China lacked a strong central government. Despotic warlords ruled China, and their constant *strife* and widespread vice brought disorder and misery to the common people. In the words of a contemporary of Confucius, “The world had fallen into decay, and right principles had disappeared.” As a result of his ties with former pupils, Confucius was made a minister of justice in his native province of Lu. Not surprisingly, he showed himself to be a *sagacious* administrator. As a high official, Confucius was able to practice *li* and encourage others to do the same. In this way, he helped restore order in the land, all but eliminated crime, and gave the people of Lu a period of peace.

This happy state was short-lived. The ruler of Lu province grew *indolent* and began taking advice from those who wanted to return to the old days. They wanted more opportunity for personal enrichment by corrupting government officials. Confucius found his influence *waning*. After four years in office, he was dismissed as a result of the maneuvers of jealous rivals. Now fifty-six, Confucius spent the next thirteen years traveling throughout China, hoping to find a ruler who would accept his guidance. Although he failed in this endeavor, there is no evidence that he ever became *cynical*. Although Confucius did not put his principles into writing, a group of his followers passed on his teachings. These dealt with codes of conduct based on the belief that strong moral character is the basis of civilization and that inner goodness is reflected in outer behavior. Some three thousand principles of Confucius survived and became the basis of Chinese education for over two thousand years.

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

1. Why was Confucius not able to afford a formal education?

2. What details in the passage suggest that Confucius was not an *indolent* youth?

3. How did Confucius educate himself?
4. How might following the Golden Rule reduce strife?
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5. What would be an appropriate description for the person who says that the Golden Rule is “The one with the gold makes the rules”?
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6. What evidence do we have that the followers of Confucius venerated him?
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7. What impediments did Confucius have to overcome as a young man?
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8. What were some of the differences in point of view between Confucius and Lao-tzu?
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9. How do you know that Confucius and Lao-tzu were contemporaries?
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10. What contributed to Lao-tzu’s impression that Confucius was callow?
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11. What quality do Confucius and Lao-tzu share?
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12. Why was it unlikely that despotic rulers would appoint Confucius to a position of authority?
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13. Why do you think interest in Confucius’ teachings has not waned?
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The adjectives *contemporary* and *contemporaneous* mean the same thing. To say that something is *contemporary* (without specifying with what) is understood to mean “*contemporary* with us,” or modern. Thus, *contemporary* fashions may be contrasted with those of the 1920s.

The Latin *dolere* means “to feel pain” and forms the root of several English words associated with suffering. In English, *dolor* means “sorrow” or “grief.” (Many of the works of the American poet Emily Dickenson are filled with a spirit of *dolor.* ) *Doleful* means “full of pain or sorrow.” (Her *doleful* expression told me her dog was still missing.)

One of the functions of the prefix *in-* or *im-* is to turn a word into its opposite. *Indolent* once meant “free of pain.” The fact that indolent now means “lazy” or “idle” seems to suggest that activity is painful; however, since most societies believe activity to be a good thing, the word *indolent* is now considered derogatory.