

# Lesson 12

## Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

### ability

ə'bi:lə'ti

*n.* Power or knowledge; skill.

Lani's **ability** to do math problems in her head astounded her teacher.

### amiable

ə'mi:ə'bəl

*adj.* Friendly; good natured and pleasant.

My uncle's **amiable** manner put my friends at ease right away.

### bliss

blɪs

*n.* Complete joy or happiness.

My idea of **bliss** is an afternoon on the river with my fishing rod.

**blissful** *adj.* Very happy; joyful.

The proud parents wore **blissful** smiles as they watched their son graduate.

### caress

kə'res

*v.* To touch in a tender or loving way.

Sean **caressed** the baby's forehead gently as it lay sleeping.

*n.* A tender or loving touch or hug.

The kitten brushing against my cheek felt like a **caress**.

### clutch

klʌtʃ

*v.* To grasp or hold tightly to.

Kabir **clutched** his teddy bear as he climbed into the dentist's chair.

*n.* The part of a machine that connects and disconnects the power from the rest of the machine. Before changing gears in a standard shift car, first step on the **clutch**.

### coax

kəʊks

*v.* To persuade or urge in a gentle way.

I **coaxed** my baby sister into holding my hand as we crossed the street.

### furious

fɪ'vɜ:riəs

*adj.* 1. Very, very angry.

The emperor was **furious** when he realized how the two "tailors" had tricked him.

2. Very fast, strong, or wild.

I was confused by the **furious** activity going on in the kitchen.

**fury** *n.* 1. Great anger.

Mark's uneasiness turned to **fury** when he learned how completely he had been tricked.

2. Wild and uncontrolled force.

The **fury** of the storm was far greater than had been forecast.

### gesture

gestʃər

*n.* 1. A movement of the arm or hand.

The president waved his arm in a farewell **gesture** before boarding Air Force One.

2. Something done to show one's feelings.

Asking you to the birthday party was Dolores's **gesture** of friendship.

*v.* To make a movement of the arm or hand.

The coach **gestured** to the players on the bench to join her on the field.

### mope

məʊp

*v.* To be sad and gloomy; to lose interest in the things that usually bring pleasure.

As the long, hot summer days went on and I still had no job, I began to **mope**.

**prefer**  
prɪ fər

v. To like better; to choose first.  
Which do you **prefer**, chocolate or vanilla?  
**preference** (pre' fər əns) *n.* That which is preferred.  
If you don't have a **preference**, I'll choose the movie.

**recover**  
rɪ kuv' ə

v. 1. To get back to a normal state; to get well again.  
Patrizia soon **recovered** from the flu.  
2. To get back what was lost or stolen.  
It cost a hundred dollars to **recover** my car after it was towed.  
**recovery** *n.* 1. A return to a normal state.  
Dr. Holberg was surprised at the speed of my **recovery**.  
2. The act of getting back what was lost or stolen.  
The museum is offering a reward for the **recovery** of the missing painting.

**replace**  
rɪ plə's

v. 1. To take the place of.  
Who will **replace** Mr. Myers when he leaves the school?  
2. To put back in place.  
When you are through with the encyclopedias, let the librarian **replace** them on the shelves.  
**replacement** *n.* A person or thing that takes the place of another.  
If the water pump cannot be repaired, the plumber will order a **replacement** for us.

**request**  
rɪ kwɛst'

v. To ask for.  
I **requested** a chocolate cake with cherry frosting for my birthday.  
*n.* The thing asked for.  
The band leader agreed to play our **request**.

**separate**  
sə' pər ət

v. To set or keep apart.  
Whenever the twins start fighting, my mother **separates** them.  
*adj.* (sə' pər ət) Not together; not joined.  
The twins asked if they could have **separate** bedrooms.

**shun**  
ʃʊn

v. To take special pains to avoid; to keep away from.  
Leon ceased his bullying when his classmates started to **shun** him.

## 12A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 12. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- To shun something
  - To recover something
  - is to want it very badly.
  - is to have nothing to do with it.
- To be amiable is to be very angry.
  - talkative.
  - To be furious is to be

3. (a) To separate people is to  
(b) make them angry.  
(c) try to persuade them to do something.  
(d) To coax people is to
4. (a) To prefer something is  
(b) to get it back.  
(c) To recover something is  
(d) to get closer to it.
5. (a) A caress is  
(b) A request is  
(c) a warm and loving touch.  
(d) a warning of possible danger.
6. (a) To clutch something is to  
(b) like it better than something else.  
(c) To prefer something is to  
(d) let go of it.
7. (a) To separate something is to  
(b) ask for it.  
(c) To request something is to  
(d) hold tightly to it.
8. (a) A gesture is  
(b) A replacement is  
(c) someone who takes the place of another.  
(d) something said as a joke.
9. (a) great anger.  
(b) deep sadness.  
(c) Bliss is  
(d) Fury is
10. (a) A clutch is  
(b) A gesture is  
(c) a warning not to get any closer.  
(d) a movement of the arm or hand.

## 12B 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 12.

1. Andrea and Lucia have to be **kept apart** because they giggle so much if they sit together.
2. I **made a movement of my arm** to draw attention to the car I was interested in driving.
3. I had just one **thing I wanted to ask for**, and that was a large glass of cold lemonade.

4. Irina had the chicken pox, but made a quick return to good health.
5. Angela lost interest in the things that usually gave her pleasure for weeks after Julio moved away.
6. Our old car needs a new part that connects and disconnects power from the engine.
7. Around 1900, the automobile began to take the place of the horse and buggy.
8. My having knowledge of how to speak Spanish was what got me the job in the office.
9. The runners set off at a very fast pace.
10. A look of complete happiness crossed Mai-ying's face when she heard that she had won the scholarship.

## 12C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below.  
A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following would an **amiable** person do?  
(a) avoid other people  
(b) greet you with a smile  
(c) get angry easily  
(d) make friends easily
2. Which of the following might a child **caress**?  
(a) a baby sister  
(b) a stuffed animal  
(c) a pet rabbit  
(d) a porcupine
3. Which of the following might a person **clutch**?  
(a) a phone call  
(b) a telephone  
(c) a baseball bat  
(d) a baseball score
4. Which of the following is a friendly **gesture**?  
(a) sending a get-well card  
(b) closing your eyes  
(c) holding out your hand  
(d) turning your back
5. Which of the following might a person who is **moping** do?  
(a) suggest having a party  
(b) not answer when spoken to  
(c) stay home all day  
(d) call up old friends

ability  
amiable  
bliss  
caress  
clutch  
coax  
furious  
gesture  
mope  
prefer  
recover  
replace  
request  
separate  
shun

6. Which of the following could be **recovered**?

- (a) lost time
- (b) a lost ring
- (c) your balance
- (d) your health

7. Which of the following can be **replaced**?

- (a) a book taken from the shelf
- (b) a lost screwdriver
- (c) a friend who dies
- (d) a pet turtle that dies

8. Who would someone be likely to **shun**?

- (a) an enemy
- (b) an untrustworthy person
- (c) a friend
- (d) a helpful person

## Word Study

Synonyms are words with similar meanings, but the meanings are not always exactly the same. Read the pairs of sentences below. Then choose the synonym that best fits each sentence.

### ask/request

1. When I am lost, I usually \_\_\_\_\_ someone for directions.
2. The driver will let you get out of the bus at Hanover Street only if you \_\_\_\_\_ a stop there.

### shun/avoid

3. I try to \_\_\_\_\_ the downtown area at rush hour.
4. The students \_\_\_\_\_ anyone who acts like a bully.

### slay/kill

5. In the legend, the hero set out to \_\_\_\_\_ the dragon.
6. In the movie, we saw a lion \_\_\_\_\_ a zebra after bringing it down.

### desire/wish

7. Did your \_\_\_\_\_ come true?
8. Their one \_\_\_\_\_ was to live in freedom.

### bliss/happiness

9. \_\_\_\_\_ can often be found by serving others.
10. To be young and in love was sheer \_\_\_\_\_.

## old/ancient

11. The \_\_\_\_\_ city of Nineveh was in present-day Iraq.  
 12. Do you have any \_\_\_\_\_ clothes you want to give away?

## alter/change

13. Do you intend to \_\_\_\_\_ the date of the meeting?  
 14. A tailor can \_\_\_\_\_ that jacket so that it fits better.

## 17E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows.

## Communicating with Koko

American Sign Language (ASL) is a form of communication that is as rich and flexible as spoken English. It is used by hundreds of thousands of hearing-impaired people. Each **gesture** of the hand or arm has a particular meaning. In the early 1970s, a most unusual student began learning to communicate through ASL. Her name was Koko and her teacher was Dr. Francine Patterson.

Koko, a gorilla, was born in the San Francisco Zoo. While still a baby, she became ill and had to be **separated** from the other gorillas. She lived in a specially equipped trailer, where Dr. Patterson, a scientist interested in animal behavior, took care of her. While Dr. Patterson was nursing Koko back to health, she slowly and with great difficulty taught the young gorilla to communicate, using ASL hand and arm movements. Dr. Patterson made up little games to teach Koko how to use her hands. She began by working on words for food and drink, showing her the object, saying the word, and making the sign. For example, she would sign the word for drink before giving Koko a drink. Koko began to show signs that she understood the meaning of Dr. Patterson's gestures after only two weeks. Once she made the association between hand movements and the objects they represented, she quickly began to learn words. By eighteen months, she knew twenty-two signs; by three years and three months, she could make seventy-eight understandable signs. Over a period of six years, she learned over a thousand words and could even string words together to form simple sentences.

Dr. Patterson also used picture books to teach Koko new words. Koko **preferred** looking at books with pictures of gorillas and cats, so when Dr. Patterson asked Koko what she wanted for her birthday, she wasn't surprised when Koko **requested** a cat. Koko was usually a very **amiable** creature, but when she opened Dr. Patterson's present and saw a stuffed animal, she was **furious** and threw it away. Dr. Patterson tried to **coax** the unhappy gorilla to play with the toy cat, but her attempts failed. Koko knew the difference between a real cat and a toy one, and she **shunned** the stuffed animal completely. She wanted a real cat.

A few weeks later Dr. Patterson gave Koko a little gray kitten. Koko picked up the kitten **very** carefully and **caressed** it gently. When asked what she was going to call it, she signed "All Ball." Perhaps she gave it this name because it had no tail, and without a tail it looked just like a ball of fur. As Koko carried All Ball around on her back, the kitten **clutched** Koko's fur; the way baby gorillas do with their mothers. Koko loved to play games with All Ball; the two became close friends.

ability  
 amiable  
 bliss  
 caress  
 clutch  
 coax  
 furious  
 gesture  
 mope  
 prefer  
 recover  
 replace  
 request  
 separate  
 shun

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One day All Ball was hit by a car and died. For days afterward, Koko **moped**—miserable over the loss of her friend. Koko **recovered** her good spirits when Dr. Patterson gave her another kitten to **replace** All Ball. When Koko got her new pet, she picked it up and held it lovingly, a **blissful** look on her face.

With language comes the **ability** to make jokes—and also to lie. Koko learned to do both. One day she broke the sink in the trailer. When Dr. Patterson asked her who had done it, Koko signed the name of the person who had been in the trailer with her. Another time she pointed to a white towel and signed “red.” She was corrected several times but refused to admit she had made a mistake. Then she slyly picked a tiny piece of lint off the towel. It was red!

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words).

1. What is the meaning of **gesture** as it is used in the passage?

2. Why was Koko living in a trailer?

3. Did Koko show a **preference** for a particular kind of book?

4. Why did Dr. Patterson choose a cat to give Koko?

5. What kind of personality did Koko have?

6. What is the meaning of **furious** as it is used in the passage?

7. How did Koko respond to Dr. Patterson's coaxing?

8. Why did Koko **shun** the toy cat?

9. How did Koko show that she cherished the real kitten?
10. How did All Ball stay on Koko's back?
11. How could Dr. Patterson tell that Koko was sad when All Ball died?
12. What is the meaning of **replace** as it is used in the passage?
13. How could Dr. Patterson tell that Koko was happy with the second cat?
14. What did learning to communicate allow Koko to do?
15. How would you feel if you felt **blissful**?

### FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

You are likely to **caress** those who are most dear to you. This is not surprising, since the word comes from the Latin *caro*, which means "dear." You might think that the word *care* comes from this same Latin root since we care for those who are dear to us, but it comes from something totally different: the Old English word *cearu*.

The noun **clutch** has an unusual meaning when it is used as the plural noun *clutches*. To be "in the

clutches" of something or somebody is to be in the power of that thing or that person. People who are taken hostage are in the *clutches* of those who have taken them prisoner; criminals spend a lot of time trying to avoid the *clutches* of the law.