



Lesson 4

active
ak' tiv

adj. 1. Taking part; working.

Luis has been an **active** member of the chess club for two years.

2. Lively; quick; busy.

Even though she is over ninety, Dr. O'Brien still has a very **active** mind.

3. Moving a lot; moving quickly.

Since I've been more physically **active**, I can run around the track more easily.

astound
ə stound'

v. To surprise; to amaze.

The United States **astounded** the world in 1969 by landing people on the moon.

astounding *adj.* Very surprising.

The report of flying saucers landing on the White House lawn would be **astounding** if it were true.

attend
ə tend'

v. 1. To go to or be present at.

If you are planning to **attend** the lunchroom committee meeting, please let Mr. Minh know.

2. To pay attention to.

The judge asked the jury to **attend** carefully to what she was going to say.

cherish
cher' ish

v. 1. To cling to an idea or feeling.

Ramona **cherished** the hope that her father would return soon.

2. To take good care of; to love.

I **cherish** the gold watch my grandfather gave me.

contract
kən trakt'

v. 1. To make an agreement that has the force of law.

We **contracted** with carpenters to repair the stairs.

2. To get; to come to have.

When I **contracted** chicken pox, Dr. Robey told me I had to stay away from other people.

3. To make or become smaller.

By 1828, Cherokee lands had **contracted** to one-tenth the size they had been a hundred years earlier.

n. (kən' trakt) An agreement that has the force of law.

Tom has just signed a **contract** with a publisher for his first book on the copper miners.

eager ē' gər	<p><i>adj.</i> Wanting very much. We were eager to take part in the science project.</p> <p>eagerly <i>adv.</i> With a great deal of enthusiasm, wanting. We eagerly awaited the arrival of our cousins, whom we hadn't seen in several months.</p>
expose ek spōz'	<p><i>v.</i> 1. To make known. In her weekly newspaper column, Molly Ivins exposed the plan to cut health benefits.</p> <p>2. To open to view. Cleaning the painting exposed the original colors.</p> <p>3. To leave unprotected. Since I had no place to keep my bike, I had to leave it outside, exposed to the weather.</p>
grace grās	<p><i>n.</i> 1. Beauty of form or movement. Margot Fonteyn danced with such grace that she was hailed as one of the world's greatest ballerinas.</p> <p>2. A short prayer said before a meal. They always say grace in her family.</p> <p>3. An extra period to do or pay something. The painters had three days' grace to finish the house.</p> <p>graceful <i>adj.</i> Having beauty of movement. With a graceful leap, the cat landed on my lap.</p>
impose im pōz'	<p><i>v.</i> 1. To force someone to accept or put up with. The new coach imposed strict rules about arriving late or leaving practice early.</p> <p>2. To take unfair advantage of. I try not to impose on my mother's good nature.</p>
modest mä' dəst	<p><i>adj.</i> 1. Not thinking too highly of oneself. Nadia was too modest to accept all the credit for her part in producing the play.</p> <p>2. Simple; not fancy or extreme. The Wallmans lived in the same modest apartment all their lives.</p> <p>modesty <i>n.</i> The quality of being modest. My sense of modesty keeps me from taking too much credit for the project's success.</p>
parallel par' ə lel	<p><i>adj.</i> Lying in the same direction and always the same distance apart. The two edges of a ruler are parallel.</p>

paralyze
par' ə līz

v. 1. To stop all movement or feeling in.
As the huge wave approached, fear **paralyzed** people walking at the water's edge and they stood there motionless.

2. To make helpless or powerless.
The snowstorm **paralyzed** Washington, D.C., for five days.

paralysis (pə ra' lə səs) *n.* Condition of being paralyzed.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a wheelchair because of the **paralysis** of his legs.

pessimist
pe' sə mist

n. A person who expects things to turn out badly.
A **pessimist** carries an umbrella even though the forecast is for fine weather.

pessimistic *adj.* Not having hope, joy, or confidence; gloomy.
After losing her librarian's job, Ms. Merkelson was **pessimistic** about finding another library position in the same town.

recite
ri sīt'

v. To say aloud before an audience, usually from memory.
Rozzie **recited** her favorite Emily Dickinson poem to the class.

recital *n.* A program of music or dance.
I felt very nervous before my ballet **recital**.

respond
ri spānd'

v. To answer.
When you want to **respond** to a question, please raise your hand.

response *n.* Something said or done in reply.
Henry took a few moments to think before giving his **response** to Mr. Bartlett's question.