



Lesson 7

alter
ôl' tər

v. To change in some way; to make or become different.
Let's **alter** our uniforms so they will fit better.

alteration *n.* A change.
Please don't make any **alterations** in my newspaper column.

confuse
kən fyōōz'

v. 1. To make or become unclear or mixed up in the mind.
That math problem totally **confused** me.

2. To mistake one person or thing for another.
I always **confuse** Sally with her twin sister Samantha.

confusing *adj.* Hard to follow or understand; unclear.
The play was **confusing** at first, but I began to understand it in the second act.

confusion *n.* A state of disorder.
After the playoff game, the dressing room was total **confusion**.

distribute
di srib' yoot

v. 1. To give out; to divide among several or many.
Ahmed **distributed** programs before the concert.

2. To be spread over.
Small parks are **distributed** throughout London.

eject
i jekt'

v. To force or throw out.
When the seventh graders refused to listen, the coach **ejected** them from the team meeting.

embrace
im brās'

v. 1. To hold closely in one's arms; to hug.
My parents **embraced** me when I got off the plane.

2. To take up seriously.
We **embraced** the idea of smaller classes, but lacked the teachers to carry it out.

n. A hug.
At the end of the movie, the hero and the heroine were locked in an **embrace**.

equip i kwip'	<p>v. To provide with what is needed. All new cars now come equipped with airbags.</p> <p>equipment n. Things that are needed for some activity. Sarah bought all her camping equipment at yard sales.</p>
flexible flek' sə bəl	<p><i>adj.</i> 1. Able to bend easily. Dancers and gymnasts have very flexible bodies.</p> <p>2. Able to adjust to new or different situations. Antonio is so flexible he can get along with anyone.</p>
instant in' stənt	<p><i>n.</i> A moment; a very short period of time. It took Luis only an instant to calculate the amount of paint we would need.</p> <p><i>adj.</i> Happening or done at once; quick. He gave an instant "yes" to her offer.</p>
keen kēn	<p><i>adj.</i> 1. Having a sharp edge. The keen blade of the knife sliced through the thick rope with ease.</p> <p>2. Showing a strong interest; eager. Marta signed up for lessons because she was keen to learn to play the guitar.</p> <p>3. Having sharp senses; quick to understand. With her keen mind, she was able to master physics with ease.</p>
limp limp	<p>v. To walk lamely or in an uneven way. I limped for two weeks after I fell on the ice.</p> <p><i>n.</i> An uneven or lopsided walk. She walked very fast, in spite of her limp.</p> <p><i>adj.</i> Not stiff or firm. His handshake was as limp as a wet rag.</p>
scurry skur' ē	<p>v. To move quickly, with rapid little steps. The chipmunk scurried up the tree as we approached.</p>
seize sēz	<p>v. 1. To grasp suddenly; to grab hold of. He seized my hand and begged me not to go.</p> <p>2. To take by force of the law. The government can seize many of the things you own if you do not pay your taxes.</p>

shallow
sha' lō

adj. 1. Not deep.

We went wading in a **shallow** stream.

2. With little seriousness or deep thought.

He tried to sound intelligent, but his arguments were really quite **shallow**.

surround
sə round'

v. To enclose on all sides.

The prison was **surrounded** by a high fence.

surroundings *n. pl.* The things or conditions around a person or place.

The hotel's peaceful **surroundings** made it a perfect place to relax.

victim
vik' təm

n. One who is hurt, killed, or suffers.

The scoundrel tried to deny that he had cheated his **victims** of their life savings.