

Lesson
31

Ready, Willing, and Able

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson contain the suffixes *-ible*, *-able*, or *-ile*, meaning “able” or “worthy of being.”

accessible (ak SES uh buhl) ADJ.

approachable *(My favorite teachers were accessible and easy to talk to.)*

discernible (di SUR nuh buhl) ADJ. able to be seen or recognized *(The cancer cells were barely discernible under the microscope.)*

exceptionable (ik SEP shuh nuh buhl) ADJ. likely to cause objection or exclusion *(The network cancelled the show because it could be exceptionable for many viewers.)*

fallible (FAL uh buhl) ADJ. liable to make a mistake *(He would not accept criticism because he thought he was not fallible.)*

illimitable (i LIM i tuh buhl) ADJ. boundless; not able to be limited *(Some scientists say the universe is illimitable.)*

immeasurable (i MEZH ur uh buhl) ADJ. extensive; not able to be measured *(I have immeasurable faith in your ability to complete this task well.)*

indispensable (IN di SPEN suh buhl) ADJ. essential *(Antibiotics are indispensable in treating bacterial infections.)*

indomitable (in DAHM i tuh buhl) ADJ. not able to be subdued; unconquerable *(The indomitable spirit of the pioneers helped them survive the long journey west.)*

inevitable (in EV i tuh buhl) ADJ. not able to be prevented or avoided *(The stock market crash was inevitable after so many investors sold out.)*

insufferable (in SUHF ur uh buhl) ADJ. not able to be endured *(His vanity and his selfishness made him an insufferable person.)*

interminable (in TUR muh nuh buhl) ADJ. endless *(When I had poison ivy, the itching seemed interminable.)*

intolerable (in TAHL ur uh buhl) ADJ.

unendurable *(The heat and humidity this summer have been intolerable.)*

irrevocable (i REV uh kuh buhl) ADJ. not able to be changed *(Her thoughtless remarks caused irrevocable damage to their friendship.)*

mobile (MOH buhl) ADJ. able to move easily *(Many people prefer to live in mobile homes.)*

ostensible (ah STEN suh buhl) ADJ. having the appearance of being open to view; apparent *(The candidate's ostensible purpose was to help the homeless; his real goal was to win votes.)*

pliable (PLY uh buhl) ADJ. easy to bend or twist *(Because gold is so pliable, it is easy to form it into various shapes for jewelry.)*

reparable (REP ur uh buhl) ADJ. able to be repaired *(Luckily, the damage to my car was reparable.)*

tractable (TRAK tuh buhl) ADJ. easily controlled; docile *(Once captured, the horse became quite tractable.)*

unconscionable (uhn KAHN shuh nuh buhl) ADJ. beyond reason; shockingly unjustifiable *(Many antiwar protesters felt the Vietnam War was unconscionable.)*

venerable (VEN ur uh buhl) ADJ. deserving of respect, usually because of age *(We make sure my venerable grandfather sits at the head of the table for family celebrations.)*

Exercise 1

Choose the letter of the word set that best completes the sentence.

1. The ---- explorer found ---- pleasure in facing hardship and challenges.
A. intolerable — inevitable **C.** ostensible — accessible
B. indomitable — illimitable **D.** tractable — irrevocable
2. The barely ---- scratch on his new car was ---- to my father.
F. pliable — ostensible **H.** reparable — indispensable
G. discernible — intolerable **J.** inevitable — venerable
3. Her ---- attitude led to her ---- dismissal.
A. insufferable — inevitable **C.** accessible — exceptionable
B. fallible — insufferable **D.** indispensable — fallible
4. The song lyrics were ---- and the lengthy verses made it seem ----.
F. indispensable — ostensible **H.** exceptionable — interminable
G. mobile — tractable **J.** irrevocable — pliable
5. She did everything with such ---- skill; she did not seem ----.
A. accessible — intolerable **C.** immeasurable — fallible
B. irrevocable — tractable **D.** pliable — accessible
6. ---- buildings allow a more ---- lifestyle for those in wheelchairs.
F. Reparable — venerable **H.** Indispensable — ostensible
G. Irrevocable — discernible **J.** Accessible — mobile
7. Their ---- helpfulness was a cover for their ---- motive of thievery.
A. reparable — exceptionable **C.** ostensible — unconscionable
B. fallible — inevitable **D.** pliable — venerable
8. Because the metal is so ----, the damaged earring is ----.
F. accessible — venerable **H.** mobile — inevitable
G. pliable — reparable **J.** ostensible — indomitable
9. The ---- old woman found many aspects of modern life to be ----.
A. venerable — intolerable **C.** insufferable — mobile
B. tractable — ostensible **D.** indomitable — discernible
10. The ---- old draft horse was ---- for breaking in new horses.
F. indomitable — pliable **H.** fallible — unconscionable
G. pliable — insufferable **J.** tractable — indispensable

Exercise 2

Choose the letter of the word that most nearly has the *opposite* meaning of the word in capital letters.

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|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11. DISCERNIBLE | A. open | C. despicable | 16. IRREVOCABLE | F. wonderful | H. extra |
| | B. unseen | D. visible | | G. changeable | J. respectful |
| 12. TRACTABLE | F. tame | H. round | 17. INDISPENSABLE | A. ordinary | C. needed |
| | G. wild | J. avoidable | | B. swift | D. unnecessary |
| 13. ACCESSIBLE | A. remote | C. bendable | 18. INDOMITABLE | F. defeated | H. excluded |
| | B. tired | D. essential | | G. domestic | J. free |
| 14. FALLIBLE | F. unreliable | H. weary | 19. INTERMINABLE | A. endless | C. careful |
| | G. limited | J. perfect | | B. brief | D. movable |
| 15. INSUFFERABLE | A. offensive | C. subdued | 20. PLIABLE | F. bendable | H. inflexible |
| | B. controlled | D. pleasant | | G. limited | J. quaint |

Vocabulary

Exercise 1

- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 5 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 6 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 7 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 8 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 9 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 10 (F) (G) (H) (J)

Exercise 2

- 11 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 12 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 13 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 14 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 15 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 16 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 17 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 18 (F) (G) (H) (J)
- 19 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 20 (F) (G) (H) (J)