

# Lesson 12

For more practice and games, go to [www.WordlyWise3000.com](http://www.WordlyWise3000.com)



## Word Wise

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**ability**  
ə bi' lə te

*n.* Power or knowledge; skill.

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

**amiable**  
ā' mē ə bəl

*adj.* Friendly; good natured and pleasant.

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

**bliss**  
blis

*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**  
kluch

*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**  
kōks

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

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

**furious**  
fyoor' ē əs

*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.

**shun**  
shun

*v.* To take special pains to avoid; to keep away from.

Leon ceased his bullying when his classmates started to **shun** him.

**gesture**  
jes' chər

*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**  
mōp

*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**  
pri 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**  
ri kuv' ər

*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**  
ri plās'

*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**  
ri kwest'

*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**  
se' pār āt

*v.* To set or keep apart.

Whenever the twins start fighting, my mother **separates** them.

*adj.* (se' pār ət) Not together; not joined.

The twins asked if they could have **separate** bedrooms.