

Lesson 19

Negative Connotations

All the words in this lesson may indicate that something is missing or lacking.

- amoral** ADJ. unaffected by any system of ethics (Very young children are *amoral* beings who have not yet learned to distinguish right from wrong.)
- apathy** N. a state of being marked by an absence of emotional involvement or interest (Voter *apathy* during the 1970's was a concern to politicians.)
- disarray** N. disorder (Ricardo prides himself on the *disarray* of his office because he believes it is evidence of the vigor of his mind.)
- dispassionate** ADJ. unaffected by bias or emotion (Journalists should be *dispassionate* enough to be able to report a story clearly and objectively.)
- illusive** ADJ. not real, having the quality of an illusion; deceptive (Leon is always involved in some *illusive* get-rich-quick scheme.)
- impotent** ADJ. powerless (Being unable to help a loved one who is critically ill would make anyone feel *impotent*.)
- inaccessible** ADJ. unreachable (The storm destroyed the bridge and made the island *inaccessible* by car.)
- inanimate** ADJ. lifeless; spiritless (People who suffer from the severe mental disorder known as catatonia appear almost completely *inanimate*.)
- inconsequential** ADJ. insignificant; irrelevant (Public fears of contamination by the proposed nuclear waste dump are considered *inconsequential* by the company desiring to develop the site.)
- inconvenience** N. a mild annoyance; a cause of some trouble (Having to pump one's own gas is an *inconvenience*, but the savings are worth it.)
- incredulity** N. disbelief (Fred was amused by his mother's *incredulity* when he told her he planned to study on Friday night.)
- indiscriminate** ADJ. careless in ranking or judgment; random (Rhoda's *indiscriminate* choice of friends annoys her mother, who would like her to be more selective.)
- inert** ADJ. unable to move; slow to move or mix with other substances (The devastating news of his best friend's tragic accident left Victor *inert*.)
- intangible** ADJ. not capable of being perceived by the senses; abstract (Our coach stresses the *intangible* rewards of team competition.)
- irrelevant** ADJ. inapplicable and, therefore, meaningless; beside the point (Much can be learned from the past, yet many people consider the study of history *irrelevant*.)
- noncommittal** ADJ. suggesting no preference (Several nations remain *noncommittal* about the proposed peace plan.)
- trivial** ADJ. unimportant (Adults too often consider the problems of children to be *trivial*.)
- uninhibited** ADJ. unaffected by moral or social codes of conduct (Three-year-old Cindy's *uninhibited* behavior is often a source of embarrassment to her parents.)
- vulnerable** ADJ. open to attack (Because they were *vulnerable* to attack by their enemies, some African tribes built stockades around their villages.)
- witless** ADJ. lacking cleverness or intelligence (Yoko considered her opponent *witless* and was unconcerned about the upcoming debate.)