

Lesson 14

Intellect

All the words in this lesson may be associated with intellect.

- cognizance** N. an awareness; knowledge (*Cognizance* of wind currents is an important aspect of meteorology.)
- cohere** V. to fit or stick together effectively (Movies have greater impact if their visual and verbal messages *cohere* for a unified effect.)
- conjecture** N. an informed guess (Some scientific discoveries progress from observation, to *conjecture*, to experimentation.)
- dialectic** N. the process of intellectual investigation by rational dialogue and debate (Many credit Socrates, whose inquiry into truth took the form of dialogue, with the beginnings of Western *dialectic*.)
- erudite** ADJ. extremely well-educated and knowledgeable (Our best scholars are *erudite* in many subjects, not just in their specialized fields.)
- focal** ADJ. concerning the center of interest or activity (The *focal* point of the discussion concerned what we would do in an emergency.)
- glean** V. to gather together bit by bit (Through research, Beth will *glean* evidence to support her thesis on ancient Egyptian texts.)
- incisive** ADJ. perceiving and expressing an idea keenly and forcefully (Your *incisive* interpretation convinced even the most skeptical listeners.)
- infer** V. to draw a conclusion from evidence (By looking at the expression on your face, I can *infer* that you are angry.)
- mentality** N. an outlook; a way of understanding the world (The isolationist *mentality* of Japan's nineteenth-century rulers prevented foreign commerce.)
- muse** V. to meditate or reflect upon (Vasha likes to *muse* upon the success of his first book and how it will change his life.)
- perception** N. the result of seeing or observing something; awareness (We all saw the same accident but each of us has a different *perception* of it.)
- percipient** ADJ. having keen insight and understanding (The manager is a *percipient* character; he understands the implication of every detail.)
- premise** N. an element or proposition on which other assertions are based (No one questioned the *premise* upon which the whole policy rested.)
- qualm** N. a feeling of uneasiness or doubt (Joe did not have a single *qualm* about the hunting trip, until a buck turned and looked him in the eye.)
- quandary** N. a state of doubt or confusion (The withdrawal of the candidate threw the city council into a *quandary*.)
- reverie** N. a pleasant and dreamy state of thinking; a daydream (As Yuri sat listening to the lecture, he fell into a *reverie*.)
- ruminate** V. to think something over repeatedly and slowly (Her colleague came to a hasty decision, but Elsa continued to *ruminate* about the problem for days.)
- surmise** V. to suspect, assume, or guess (Mr. Roberts, should I *surmise* from your inability to stay awake for today's lecture that you were studying all night long?)
- transcend** V. to go beyond or rise above (Einstein would *transcend* the mechanical model of the universe that Newton passed down.)