

Lesson 1

Appearance

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

askew ADJ. crooked; out of line (Several of the portraits on the wall were *askew*.)

composure N. calmness and dignity maintained by self-control (No matter how nervous Josie felt, she kept her *composure*.)

countenance N. appearance, especially facial expression (Looking into the mirror, my eyes met a troubled *countenance*.)

decrepit ADJ. weakened by old age, illness, or overwork (It is amazing that such a *decrepit* old car can still run.)

disfigure V. to spoil or damage the appearance of something (Although the cut is deep, it will not *disfigure* your face or leave a scar.)

ethereal ADJ. marked by unusual delicacy or refinement; heavenly (In her angel costume, the girl had an *ethereal* look.)

emaciated ADJ. having become extremely thin from starvation or illness (Many of the *emaciated* victims of the famine have been relocated.)

garish ADJ. excessively bright or offensively colored (Flashing neon signs provided a *garish* illumination for the storefront.)

gaudy ADJ. tastelessly ornamented; overdecorated (The actress's *gaudy* costume included two bracelets and three rhinestone necklaces.)

glossy ADJ. having a shiny, lustrous surface (The cowboy rubbed and buffed his boots until their *glossy* surface mirrored his smile.)

grimace N. a contorted facial expression of pain or disgust (Every smile was transformed into a *grimace* at the bad news.)

grotesque ADJ. exceptionally severe deformity or distortion that is almost a caricature (Sitting calmly before me was a *grotesque* little alien.)

guise N. external appearance or costume (One man showed up in the *guise* of a mild-mannered newspaper reporter.)

haggard ADJ. appearing thin and exhausted (Each of the vagabonds' *haggard* faces showed signs of relief at the approaching spring.)

immaculate ADJ. pure; stainless; spotless (After dinner everyone scoured and scrubbed until the kitchen was *immaculate*.)

metamorphosis N. a dramatic transformation in appearance, structure, or character (A caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly is an example of *metamorphosis*.)

placid ADJ. showing a calm exterior (The *placid* surface of the lake did not suggest the active aquatic life that existed below.)

prim ADJ. formal; proper or prudish (The *prim* couple sat so rigidly straight in their chairs one could imagine them in a formal Victorian drawing room.)

unkempt ADJ. untidy; messy; in disarray (With knee-high weeds and uncut grass, the yard had an *unkempt* look about it.)

wan ADJ. unusually pale as from fatigue, illness, or emotional distress (The little boy had a sad, *wan* little face due to his bout with the flu.)