

## Lesson 12

# Human Behavior

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All the words in this lesson may be associated with human behavior.

**assert** V. to declare or express forcefully (Joli's confidence allowed her to *assert* herself as a public speaker.)

**beguile** V. to fool or trick; to divert attention away from (During the tennis match, Bill was able to *beguile* his opponent with crafty moves.)

**condone** V. to pardon or overlook without criticism (Neither in Africa nor in India did Gandhi *condone* violent rebellion.)

**connive** V. to scheme in a hidden manner; to conspire (In his pursuit of power, he was known to *connive* with the most unethical sort of people.)

**contemptuous** ADJ. scornful (Because Mr. Gecko was *contemptuous* of everyone but himself, he trusted no one with his secrets.)

**didactic** ADJ. designed to teach (One *didactic* method is to tell a story to illustrate what is being taught.)

**dissuade** V. to convince to do something (Mick's father was able to *dissuade* his son from getting a part-time job after school.)

**flippant** ADJ. a saucy, impudent lack of seriousness (Grandpa did not like the salesperson's *flippant* tone.)

**infallible** ADJ. incapable of mistakes or errors (Miss Marple is often correct, but even she is not *infallible*.)

**ingenuous** ADJ. straightforward; honest and sincere (Because of her *ingenuous* character, Mae was unable to disguise her true feelings.)

**inhibition** N. an act of holding back an urge; control in doing something (Her *inhibition* prevented her from volunteering to give a speech.)

**obfuscate** V. to make unclear; to obscure (The jury saw through the witness's attempt to *obfuscate* his involvement in the crime.)

**obsequious** ADJ. overly willing to please (We were shocked when the normally *obsequious* employee disagreed with the boss.)

**perseverance** N. persistence (Through *perseverance*, Ranata learned to solve the problems in her calculus book.)

**pretense** N. an act of make-believe or deception (It was just a *pretense*; he really did not know the baseball star and could not get tickets for us.)

**querulous** ADJ. habitually complaining (A *querulous* individual is never happy or satisfied with anything.)

**restraint** N. the act of maintaining control or holding back (We admired the speaker's *restraint* when the heckler disrupted his speech.)

**ruthless** ADJ. merciless; without compassion (*Ruthless* criticism of the opening night performance did not seem to faze the actress.)

**taciturn** ADJ. silent; a preference for avoiding speech (The artist was *taciturn* and rarely said more than a few, brief words.)

**vociferous** ADJ. calling out loudly (Despite frequent warnings, the *vociferous* crowd continued to protest the judge's rulings.)