

Lesson 15

Intellect

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

bias N. a prejudice; a tendency toward a highly personal and unreasoned judgment
(In order not to be accused of *bias*, you should consider all sides of the issue.)

cerebral ADJ. appealing to intellectual appreciation (Many people consider reading classic literature to be a *cerebral* activity.)

cosmic ADJ. marked by vastness or intensity (The *cosmic* implications of Galileo's findings shook the intellectual world.)

denote V. to indicate (A red sky at night is said to *denote* fair weather for the coming day.)

explicit ADJ. clearly and precisely stated (Always give *explicit* directions; do not assume that people will know precisely what to do.)

fathom V. to explore and come to understand (It took many centuries for humans to *fathom* that the Earth was round, not flat.)

feasible ADJ. reasonably possible (Plans to build a new stadium without a tax increase are simply not *feasible*.)

generality N. a statement that is vague or imprecise; an idea based on typical rather than specific conditions (It is a *generality* to say that all cities are polluted.)

gist N. the main point of a matter (Give us the *gist* of your plan before we read the whole proposal.)

immutable ADJ. constant, unchanging (The universe operates according to the *immutable* laws of nature.)

juxtapose V. to place side by side (When we *juxtapose* these two stories, we can note more similarities than differences.)

misconception N. a mistake in interpretation (This entire argument is the result of a *misconception* on both our parts.)

obscure ADJ. not clearly or easily understood; little-known (Science tries to shed light on the *obscure* laws of nature.)

obtuse ADJ. thick-headed; insensitive; not sharp (Whenever I read the philosophy of Plato, I feel terribly *obtuse*.)

parochial ADJ. limited; confined to a relatively small area (Because May never left her hometown, her views are often *parochial*.)

profound ADJ. far-reaching; marked by intensity; intellectually deep (Scientific discoveries have a *profound* effect on everyday life.)

rationalization N. an explanation to make something seem reasonable ("Everyone else is doing it" is a *rationalization* for some types of behavior.)

reflection N. a careful consideration of something; a thinking about (A desire for peaceful *reflection* led Mary to go for a long walk.)

subliminal ADJ. existing below the threshold of conscious awareness (Some companies are said to use *subliminal* advertising tactics.)

vagary N. an unpredictable action or notion (I wonder where you came up with that *vagary*; the idea does not seem like something you would think of.)