

Lesson 25

Lesson Word Parts

pseudo-- "false"

psycho-- "mind"



Uncle Cletus and Aunt Chloe were **precocious** children.

Word List

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| 1. precocious | 6. provocative |
| 2. preposterous | 7. prudent |
| 3. presumptuous | 8. pseudonym |
| 4. primeval | 9. psychology |
| 5. procrastinate | 10. pudgy |

Part I: Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct lesson word.

precocious preposterous presumptuous primeval procrastinate

1. The _____ four-year-old has learned to read the recipe for her favorite cookies.
2. Since he did not have all the facts, John's remarks were _____ as well as obtrusive.
3. Paleontologists believe that _____ life first developed in the sea and not on the land.
4. Centuries ago, most people held the _____ belief that the earth is flat.
5. Lillian rarely gets things done on schedule because she tends to _____.

provocative prudent pseudonym psychology pudgy

6. Samuel Clemens wrote under the _____ of Mark Twain.
7. I worry that I will always be _____, but Dad says I will grow taller and be thinner just as he did.
8. We think the _____ story in the school newspaper is presumptuous and an unfair criticism of video games.

9. Since the weatherman is forecasting rain, I would be _____ to move my bike into the garage.
10. Teachers must have expertise in child _____ in order to maintain a pleasant learning environment.

Part II: Lesson Word Parts and Etymologies

11. Write the lesson word with a literal meaning of “false name.”

12. The amoeba is a one-celled organism that moves and captures food by means of a **pseudopod**. What is a **pseudopod**?
13. What is a **psychosomatic** illness?
14. Which of the following words means “a severe mental disorder involving loss of contact with reality”?
psychometrics **psychosis** **psychoanalysis** _____

15. This lesson word’s past can be traced to the Latin **pre--**, “before,” and **coquo--**, “to cook or boil,” giving it the literal meaning “precooked.” Before long, the Latin word **precoquo** came to mean “to ripen fully.” Later it was applied to fruit that ripened before its time or prematurely.

Today, the word is still descriptive of early development, especially that of children who are mentally or physically well ahead of the normal expectations. However, we do not classify such youngsters as “precooked.” How do we describe them?

16. We have an expression “putting the cart before the horse” to indicate a situation in which things are done in a backward, ridiculous order. The Romans also found themselves in such entanglements. To put a name on the phenomenon, they added **pre--**, meaning “before” to **posterus**, meaning “following,” and created a word which, freely translated, means “the *before* coming *after*.”

Write the lesson word that is a descendant of the Latin name for a mixed-up occurrence.

17. The Latin word composed of **pro--**, “forward,” and **cras**, “tomorrow,” has come to us as a term with a meaning much like the original. Write the lesson word that means “to put off doing something until a future time.”

18. **Primaevus**, from the Latin, has a literal meaning of “the first age.” Write the lesson word that is a descendant.

Part III: Write the correct form of the lesson word in the blank in each sentence.

19. During his visits, Ned **presumptuous** (adverb) _____ helps himself to whatever is in the refrigerator.
20. Dreams that never become reality are often the victims of the dreamer’s **procrastinate** (noun) _____,
21. We picked the **pudgy** (superlative adjective) _____ puppy in the litter.
22. Chris **prudent** (adverb) _____ saves part of his allowance each week.
23. The anthropologist spoke so **provocative** (adverb) _____ about Borneo that I found myself wanting to go there.

Part IV: Tell whether the following statements are **True** or **False** under **normal circumstances**. Write the answer in the blank.

- _____ 24. A **precocious** child will predictably have difficulty learning.
- _____ 25. Eating an ice cream cone drenched in vinegar is a **preposterous** idea.
- _____ 26. It’s **presumptuous** to give advice without being asked.
- _____ 27. Bacteria are examples of life forms that existed during the **primeval** period.
- _____ 28. It’s advisable to **procrastinate** when one has overdue homework.
- _____ 29. One criticism of contemporary music is that it’s too **provocative**.
- _____ 30. Watching television is always a **prudent** use of free time.
- _____ 31. A **pseudonym** is a family name.
- _____ 32. A basic knowledge of **psychology** is beneficial to good parenting skills.
- _____ 33. Children less than a year old are often **pudgy**.