**LA10 VOCABULARY**

**Lesson Seven**

1. **cynical (adjective)** inclined to distrust or deny the goodness or sincerity of human motives

A *cynical* person frequently encounters problems because others cannot trust his or her words.

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| *syn*: distrustful, skeptical, scornful | *ant*: idealistic, optimistic |

1. **decorum (noun)** conformity to accepted standards of conduct; proper behavior

The usually belligerent agnostic acted with surprising *decorum* during the church service.

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| *syn*: dignity, etiquette | *ant*: impropriety, inappropriateness |

1. **demagogue (noun)** a leader who appeals to the emotions and prejudices of people, especially to advance his or her own power

Once the leader of the revolt defeated the dictator, he then became a *demagogue.*

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| *syn*: agitator, rabble-rouser |  |

1. **demure (adjective)** quiet and modest, not showy or gaudy

On stage, Jesse dressed like an evil king, but at home he wore *demure* bland colors

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| *syn*: modest, decorous, reserved | *ant*: audacious, conceited, blunt |

1. **deprecate (verb)** to express disapproval of; to depreciate one’s effort

Because the others *deprecated* his earlier ideas, he offered no new ones.

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| *syn*: belittle, disparage | *ant*: approve, commend, praise |

1. **destitute (adjective)** extremely poor; lacking necessities like food and shelter

Since they had no insurance, the fire which completely destroyed their home left them *destitute*

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| *syn*: indigent, impoverished, penniless | *ant*: opulent, affluent |
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1. **diffident (adjective)** lacking in self-confidence; shy

After hearing of the man’s accomplishments, it was especially hard to understand his *diffident* attitude.

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| *syn*: timid, shy, modest | *ant*: arrogant, aggressive, forward |

1. **dilemma (noun)** a difficult choice; especially a choice between two equally undesirable alternatives

Whether I should repair my old car or purchase a new one presented me with a real *dilemma.*

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| *syn*: quandary, plight, predicament |  |

1. **dilettante (noun)** one who studies an art or science for mere amusement

Though just a *dilettante*, he practiced his piano with as much diligence as a concert pianist.

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| *syn*: amateur, dabbler | *ant*: expert, professional |

1. **disparity (noun)** inequality; difference

He was sixty and she forty, but their marriage was very happy despite the *disparity* in their ages.

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| *syn*: disproportion, dissimilarity | *ant*: parity, likeness, equality |