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Lesson 1 Vocabulary

1. **stare** _____ / stār / verb

synonyms: look, gaze

The children stared at the stranger.

homonym: stair

We went up the stairs to the attic.

2. **leap** _____ / lēp / verb

synonyms: jump, spring

The child leaped for joy.

The man leaped for his car.

3. **trot** _____ / trot / verb

synonym: jog

Horses trot.

The little boy trotted home happily.

4. **seize** _____ /sēz / verb

synonym: grab

The fox seized a hen and ran off with it.

noun: seizure

5. **pant** _____ / pant / verb

synonyms: breathe (hard), gasp

Runners pant after a race.

Dogs pant in summer.

6. **attempt** _____ / ə tempt' / noun, verb

synonym: try

He made an attempt to catch the ball. (noun)

He attempted to catch it. (verb)

7. **gleam** _____ / glēm / noun, verb

synonyms: shine, sparkle

Candles make a soft gleam. (noun)

Candles gleamed on the table. (verb)

8. **famish** _____ / fam' ish / verb

synonym: starve

Cattle may famish in a snow storm.

adjective: famished

9. **exhaust** _____ / ig zôst' / noun, verb

Hard work exhausts us. (verb)

Exhaust from a car is poisonous. (noun)

noun: exhaustion

adjectives: exhausted, exhaustive

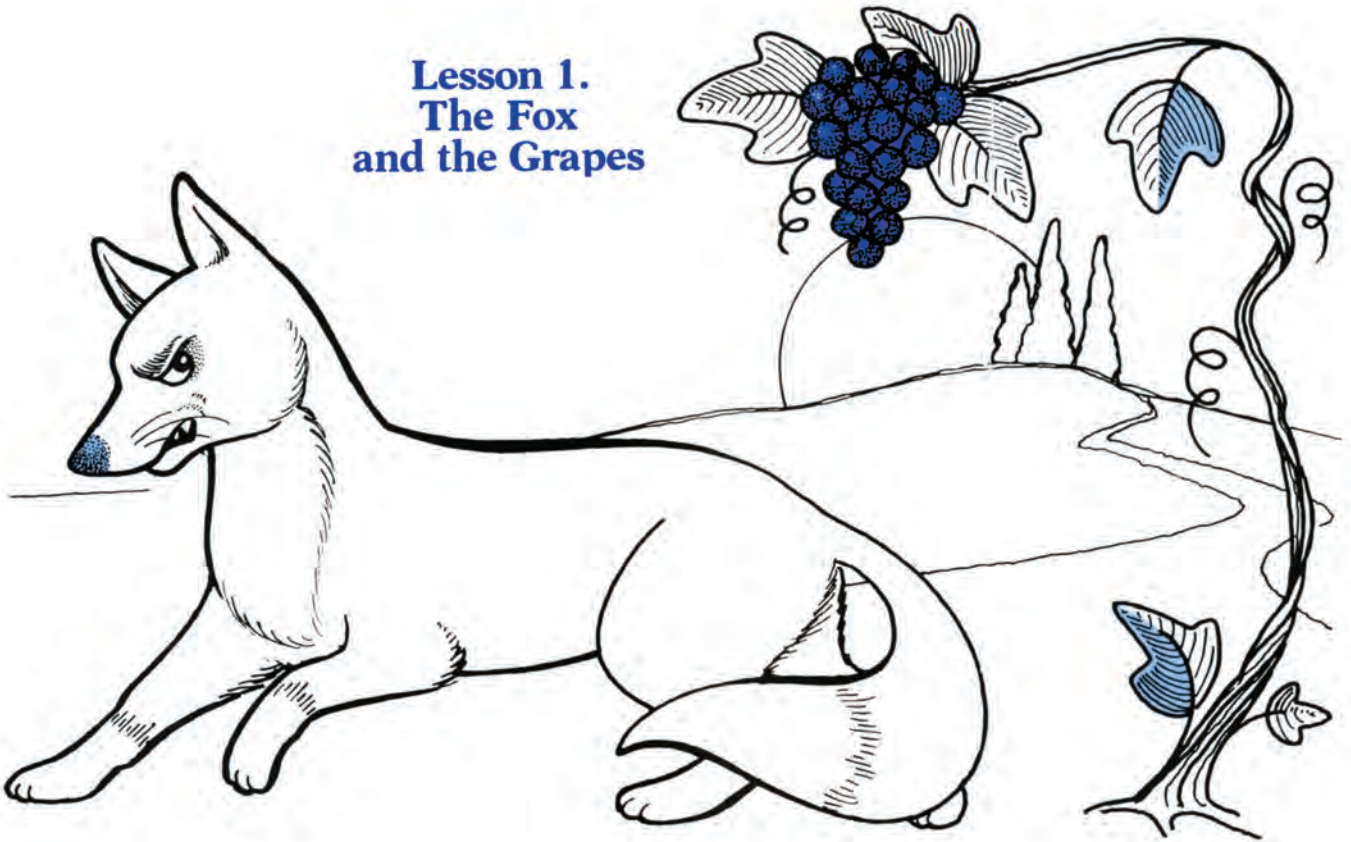
10. **splendid** _____ / splen' did / adjective

synonyms: grand, glorious, brilliant

The queen wore a splendid gown.

noun: splendor

Lesson 1. The Fox and the Grapes



Fox was hungry. He patted his empty stomach with his paw.

"I am famished," he said. "I will have to find food. There must be something good to eat out there in the woods."

Off trotted the fox. Soon he saw some ripe blue grapes hanging on a vine high above his head. Fox's eyes gleamed. He smacked his lips.

"I am in luck!" he cried. "What splendid grapes!"

He trotted back a few steps, broke into a run, and leaped high into the air. He missed the grapes by at least a foot. He trotted back again for a second attempt. He ran. He leaped once more. Again he missed the grapes by nine or ten inches.

Fox attempted again and again to seize the grapes in his teeth. Again and again his leap fell a few inches short of the grapes.

At last he was exhausted. Panting, he sat down in the shade. He stared at the grapes. At last he got up and trotted off into the woods.

"Shucks!" he said. "Those grapes are sour! Who wants to eat sour grapes?"

Lesson 2 Vocabulary

1. **greed** _____ / grēd / noun
The miser had greed for gold.
adjective: greedy
adverb: greedily
-

2. **choice** _____ / chois / noun, adjective
Mary's choice was a blue silk dress. (noun)
Choice fruit is on sale at the market. (adjective)
-

3. **feast** _____ / fēst / noun, verb
The Pilgrims had a Thanksgiving feast. (noun)
They feasted on turkey, corn, and squash. (verb)
-

4. **stream** _____ / strēm / noun, verb
We waded across the stream. (noun)
Fans streamed out of the ball park. (verb)
related words: streamer, streamline
-

-
5. **pause** _____ / pôz / noun, verb
After a short pause, we went on our way. (noun)
The pitcher paused before throwing the ball. (verb)
homonym: paws
The kitten's paws have sharp claws.

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6. **glance** _____ / glans / noun, verb
The pitcher gave the runner a quick glance. (noun)
The pitcher glanced at the runner. (verb)

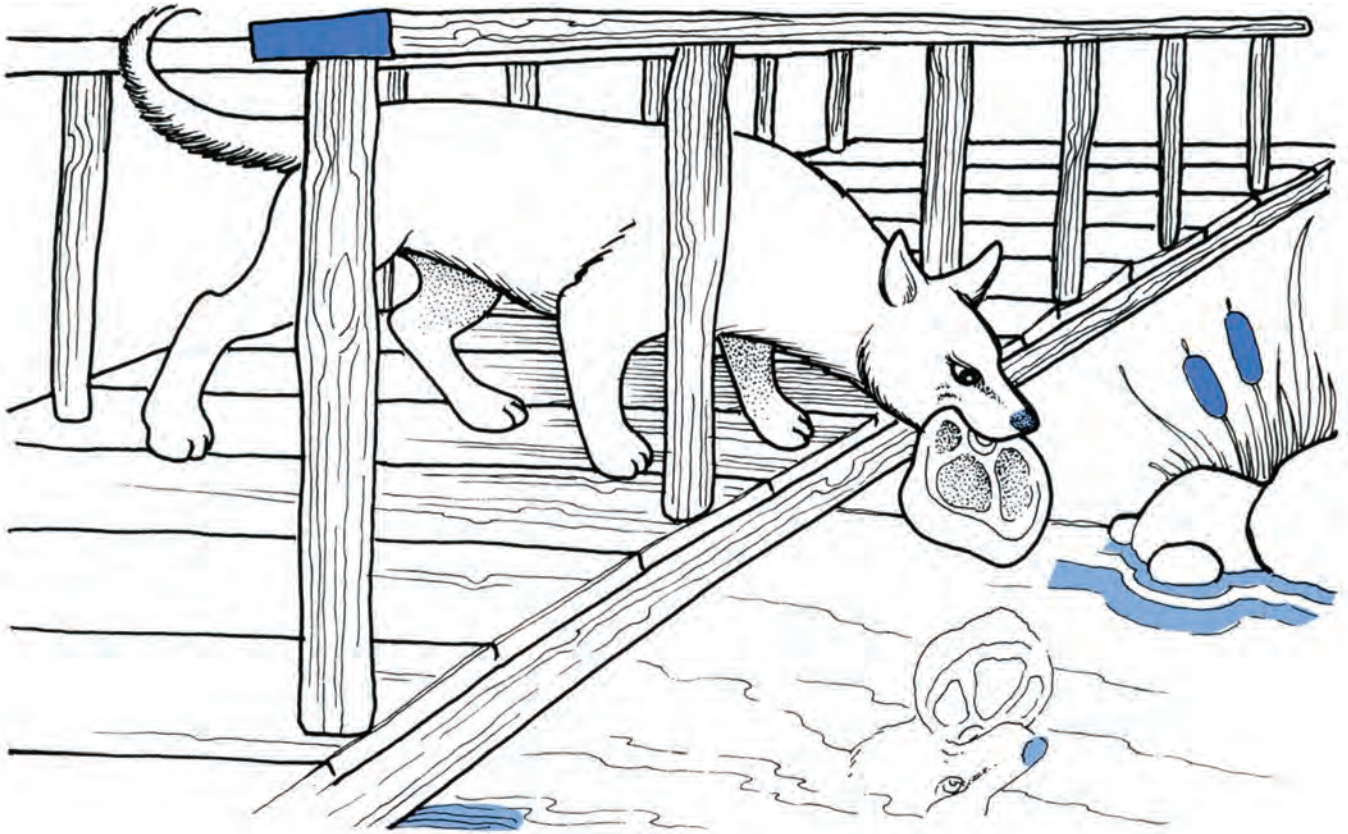
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7. **reflection** _____ / ri flek' shən / noun
synonym: image
You see your reflection in a mirror.
verb: reflect
related noun: reflector

-
8. **glare** _____ / glār / noun, verb
The glare of the headlights almost blinded the driver. (noun)
The batter glared at the umpire. (verb)
adjective: glaring

-
9. **mutter** _____ / mut' ə / verb
synonyms: grumble, complain
The driver muttered to himself when his car stalled.

-
10. **plunge** _____ / plunj / noun, verb
synonym: dive
A plunge in the swimming pool is fun. (noun)
The lifeguard plunged into the water to save the drowning child. (verb)
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Lesson 2. The Greedy Dog



Once upon a time a greedy dog saw a choice piece of meat hanging on a neighbor's porch. His eyes gleamed with greed.

"What a splendid feast I could have if I succeed in stealing that meat. I am famished!" he cried.

The dog leaped high, seized the meat, and trotted off for home. The dog had to cross a bridge over a swift stream of water on his way home. As he was trotting across the bridge, he paused to glance downward. Of course he saw his reflection staring up at him. The dog glared back.

"His piece of meat is as fine as mine," he muttered. "If I could have his, too, I could have a splendid feast!"

Overcome by his greed, the dog plunged into the stream to seize the other dog's meat.

Of course, the dog's attempt resulted only in the loss of his own meat. Exhausted and half drowned, he crawled panting to shore, a sadder and wiser dog.

Lesson 3 Vocabulary

1. **clutch** _____ / kluch / noun, verb
synonyms: grasp, grip, hold
The child had a tight clutch on my hand. (noun)
She clutched my hand. (verb)
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2. **devise** _____ / di vīz' / verb
synonyms: invent, plan
We must devise a way to earn some money.
-

3. **shrewd** _____ / shrüd / adjective
synonym: clever
Mr. Smith is a shrewd businessman.
noun: shrewdness
adverb: shrewdly
-

4. **scheme** _____ / skēm / noun, verb
synonyms: plan, plot
There is a scheme for getting salt from the sea. (noun)
The men schemed to steal the jewels. (verb)
adjective: scheming
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