

## Week Fifteen

### mitigate

Pronunciation: \\_mi-t\_-g\_t\

Function: *transitive verb*

Etymology:

Middle English, from Latin *mitigatus*, past participle of *mitigare* to soften, from *mitis* soft + *-igare* (akin to Latin *agere* to drive); akin to Old Irish *moith* soft

1: to cause to become less harsh or hostile : **MOLLIFY**: aggressiveness may be *mitigated* or...channeled — Ashley Montagu

2 a: to make less severe or painful : **ALLEVIATE** b: **EXTENUATE**

### morose

Pronunciation: \m\_-r\_s, mo\_-\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology:

Latin *morosus*, literally, capricious, from *mor-*, *mos* will

1 : having a sullen and gloomy disposition

2 : marked by or expressive of gloom

**synonym:** **SULLEN**

### mundane

Pronunciation: \\_m\_n-\_d\_n, \_m\_n\_- \

Function: *adjective*

Etymology:

Middle English *mondeyne*, from Anglo-French *mundain*, from Late Latin *mundanus*, from Latin *mundus* world

1 : characterized by the practical, transitory, and ordinary : **COMMONPLACE** : the *mundane* concerns of day-to-day life

**synonym:** **EARTHLY**

## nihilism

Pronunciation: \\_n\_(h)\_-li-z\_m, \_n\_\

Function: *noun*

Etymology: German *Nihilismus*, from Latin *nihil* nothing

**1 a:** a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless

**b:** a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths

**2 a:** a doctrine or belief that conditions in the social organization are so bad as to make destruction desirable for its own sake independent of any constructive program or possibility

**b. capitalized :** the program of a 19th century Russian party advocating revolutionary reform and using terrorism and assassination

## novice

Pronunciation: \\_nā-v\_s\

Function: *noun*

Etymology:

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Medieval Latin *novicius*, from Latin, newly imported, from *novus*

**1 :** a beginner; a tyro

**2 :** a person admitted to probationary membership in a religious community