

Lesson B-2

Key Word List

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| subvert | to upset; to overthrow; to ruin. |
| subservient | excessively willing to yield; submissive. |
| contort | to twist or bend out of shape. |
| distort | 1. to change something to make it false. 2. to twist (something) out of its natural shape. |
| retort | (v) to reply quickly and sharply, often as if in reply to an accusation; (n) a quick, witty, sometimes biting reply. |
| tortuous | 1. having many twists and turns. 2. deceitfully roundabout; tricky. |
| adversity | hardship; misfortune. |
| avert | to turn away (one's eyes); to prevent |
| introvert | a person whose thoughts and interests are directed inward. |
| perverse | stubbornly doing something other than what is reasonable or required. |
| prose | ordinary speech or writing without rhyme or meter (that is, without verse). |

Challenge Word List

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| subconscious | of or concerning the part of the mind of which one is not fully aware but which influences one's actions and feelings. |
| subjective | based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions. |
| sublimate | to redirect or modify (an instinctual impulse) into a culturally higher or socially more acceptable activity. |
| subside | to become less intense, violent, or severe. |
| subterfuge | deceit used in order to achieve one's goal. |
| succumb | to fail to resist (pressure, temptation, or some other negative force). |
| extort | to obtain (something) by force, threats, or other unfair means. |
| torque | a twisting force that tends to cause rotation. |
| tort | a wrongful act or an infringement of a right (other than under contract) leading to civil legal liability. |
| truss | a framework, typically consisting of rafters, posts, and struts, supporting a roof, bridge, or other structure. |
| vertebra | each of the series of small bones forming the backbone |
| vertigo | a sensation of whirling and loss of balance, associated particularly with looking down from a great height |
| vortex | a mass of whirling fluid or air, especially a whirlpool or whirlwind. |