Lesson Nine

1. **blatant** (**blāt´**nt) *adj.* unpleasantly loud; glaringly obvious or conspicuous
His *blatant,* sexist remark offended the women who worked in the same office.
syn: flagrant *ant: subtle, inconspicuous*

2. **bludgeon** (**blŭg´**ən) *n.* a short heavy club with one end loaded or thicker than the other; *v.* to beat or strike with a club
He used a *bludgeon* to beat up his victim.
He *bludgeoned* the man to death.

3. **bravado** (brə **vä´** dō) *n.* a show or pretense of defiance or courage
The women were not impressed with Jack's *bravado.*
syn: braggadocio *ant: modesty*

4. **buffoon** (bə **fōōn´**) *n.* a clown or jester; a person who is always trying to be funny
His bad jokes led others to believe he was a *buffoon* who could not be trusted with a high office.

5. **ghastly** (**găst´**lē) *adj.* terrifying; dreadful; horrible to look at
Although *ghastly* scenes were not new for the policeman, even he was surprised by the carnage.
syn: hideous *ant: attractive*

6. **gibe** (jīb) *n.* a derisive remark; *v.* a jeer or taunt
Jenny didn't like Susan's constant *gibes.*
syn: scoff *ant: compliment*

7. **glutton** (**glŭt´**n) *n.* a person who eats to excess
When depressed, she became a *glutton* for chocolate.

8. **paucity** (**pô´** sĭ tē) *n.* in short supply; scarcity of ideas or objects; small number
The *paucity* of medical equipment makes it difficult to help the refugees.
syn: shortage, dearth *ant: abundance, surfeit*

9. **peerless** (**pîr´** lĭs) *adj.* without equal; matchless
Jennifer's *peerless* performance won her an award from the critics.
syn: unsurpassed *ant: ordinary, pedestrian*

10. **perceptive** (pər **sĕp´** tĭv) *adj.* keen, accurate understanding
Peter is very *perceptive* when it comes to dealing with customer needs.

11. **sporadic** (spô **răd´** ĭk) *adj.* having no pattern or order; happening from time to time
His *sporadic* irrational behavior became a cause of concern for all of us.
syn: irregular, spasmodic *ant: continuous, uninterrupted*