

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

SESSION #8 (CH. 49-56)—Summer 2026 ESL360 Book Club

This summer we are reading *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han. The novel is about a teenage girl navigating first love, family, and the slow process of figuring out who she is. Each week's discussion is also framed by a short passage from *The Laws of Human Nature* by Robert Greene.

Robert Greene is one of the most widely read authors in the world. His books have sold millions of copies and have been translated into dozens of languages. His book *The Laws of Human Nature*, published in 2018, became a number one New York Times bestseller immediately. The book draws on psychology, philosophy, history, and biography to identify eighteen patterns in human behavior that shape what we do, often without our awareness. Greene has a talent for taking difficult ideas from scientists and philosophers and making them clear and useful for everyday readers. The book is not a textbook. It reads more like a guide to understanding the people around you and the person you are still becoming.

You do not need to read Greene's book. Each week, one short passage is provided on your session sheet. Think of it as a camera lens. Jenny Han shows us a story. Greene provides a way of looking at it. The laws selected relate directly to what happens in the novel. Lara Jean is a teenager figuring out who she is and what she wants. The people around her illustrate, in real and recognizable ways, the very patterns Greene spent years studying. Reading the novel through Greene's lens makes the story richer and our discussions deeper and more interesting.

Reading Schedule

Session	Date	Chapters	Theme
1	June 3, 2026	Ch. 1–6	<i>The Law of Repression</i>
2	June 10, 2026	Ch. 7–12	<i>The Law of Irrationality</i>
3	June 17, 2026	Ch. 13–18	<i>The Law of Death Denial</i>
4	June 24, 2026	Ch. 19–24	<i>The Law of Shortsightedness</i>
5	July 1, 2026	Ch. 25–32	<i>The Law of Covetousness</i>
6	July 8, 2026	Ch. 33–40	<i>The Law of Role-Playing</i>
7	July 15, 2026	Ch. 41–48	<i>The Law of Envy</i>
8	July 22, 2026	Ch. 49–56	<i>The Law of Compulsive Behavior</i>
9	July 29, 2026	Ch. 57–64	<i>The Law of Conformity</i>
10	August 5, 2026	Ch. 65–72	<i>The Law of Aimlessness</i>

Your Weekly Assignment:

Before each session, read the assigned chapters and review the discussion questions on this sheet. Think about each question and jot down a few notes of your own thoughts in the space provided. You do not need to prepare a formal answer. You simply need to come ready to share your perspective. The more thinking you bring to the room, the richer our conversation will be.

SESSION 8: CHAPTERS 49-56 & THE LAW OF COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

Compulsive behavior is behavior driven by deep habit or pattern rather than conscious choice. A person who behaves compulsively does the same things again and again, often without realizing it, because these patterns were formed early and feel almost impossible to change.

FROM THE NOVEL

"The Christmas Cookie Bonanza starts December first. We drag out all of Mommy's old cookbooks and cooking magazines and we spread them out on the living room floor and turn on the Charlie Brown Christmas album. No Christmas music is allowed in our house until December first. I don't remember whose rule this is, but we abide by it... There are a few perennials. My dad loves pecan crescents, so those are a must. Sugar cookies, because those are a given. Snickerdoodles for Kitty, molasses cookies for Margot, cowgirl cookies for me. White-chocolate cranberry are Josh's favorite." (Ch. 52)

Notice: 1. a ritual followed automatically every year, 2. a rule nobody can remember creating, and 3. Josh's cookies still on the list even after circumstances have changed.

GREENE'S LAW

Robert Greene writes that a person's true character is not visible in how they present themselves in public. It is visible in their patterns — the things they do again and again, especially when no one is watching or when life becomes difficult. Greene calls these patterns compulsive because people do not choose them freely. They are formed early in life and they repeat, often without the person realizing it. What is most revealing, Greene argues, is not just that the patterns exist — it is that they persist even when the person knows they should change. If you want to know who someone really is, pay attention not to what they say they will do, or even to what they want to do, but to what they keep doing anyway.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Chapter 52, Lara Jean notes that no Christmas music is allowed before December first — and then adds: "I don't remember whose rule this is, but we abide by it." Greene says compulsive patterns continue without anyone consciously choosing them. Josh's white-chocolate cranberry cookies are still on the list even though he and Margot have broken up. **What does the family's instinct to keep following these patterns — even ones nobody remembers creating, and ones that no longer quite make sense — tell us about how families hold on to the world as it was?**
2. Greene says we all have patterns we return to without quite deciding to. The Cookie Bonanza continues every December first — same music, same cookbooks, same cookies — whether or not the people they were made for are still there. Is there a small ritual or habit in your own life — something minor, not painful — that continues almost automatically, without you consciously deciding to keep it?

SESSION 8: VOCABULARY

Chapters 49-56 & The Law of Compulsive Behavior



mischievous adj. /ˈmɪs.tʃɪ.vəs/ MIS-chih-vus (Note: This word has three syllables, not four. A common error is to say mis-CHEEV-ee-us. The correct form is MIS-chih-vus.)

If someone looks or behaves in a mischievous way, they want to have fun in a slightly naughty or playful way that may cause minor trouble but is not meant to be seriously harmful.

"He has a mischievous glint in his eye, and I think maybe he's going to kiss me, and I'm scared, but I'm excited, too." (Ch. 52)



linger v. /ˈlɪŋ.ɡər/ LING-ger

If you linger somewhere, you stay there longer than necessary, often because you are enjoying yourself or are reluctant to leave.

"I keep thinking he's about to leave, but then he keeps lingering." (Ch. 52)



bicker v. /ˈbɪk.ər/ BIK-er

When people bicker, they argue or quarrel about something unimportant in a slightly irritable way.

"This is when things finally feel really and truly normal between us, now that we are bickering again like old times." (Ch. 53)



numb adj. /nʌm/ num (Note on pronunciation: The b at the end of numb is silent.)

If you feel numb, you are unable to feel anything, usually because of cold, shock, or a very strong emotion.

"I'm nodding but I'm numb inside." (Ch. 54)



impulse n. /ˈɪm.pʌls/ IM-puls

An impulse is a sudden strong desire to do something without thinking about whether it is a good idea or not.

"I almost kissed you that day. I thought about it. It was this weird impulse I had." (Ch. 55)

SESSION 8: GRAMMAR (REPEAT FROM SECTION 7)

Chapters 49-56 & The Law of Compulsive Behavior

Question Formation — Review

1. Recipe A — Auxiliary + BASE FORM (Session 5)

Some auxiliary verbs are followed by the **base form** of the main verb.

- These include **do / don't / does / doesn't / did / didn't / can / can't / could / couldn't / will / won't / would / wouldn't / should / shouldn't / must / mustn't / shall / shall not / may / may not / might / might not**.
- When an auxiliary verb from the list above is in a question, it follows this grammar recipe:
AUX verb + subject + BASE FORM of the main verb + ?
- The auxiliary verb "be" is the most irregular verb in English — the only verb with three present simple forms, two past simple forms, and a base form that looks nothing like any of its conjugated forms. It does not follow Recipe A when used in sentences.

2. Recipe B — BE as AUXILIARY + PRESENT PARTICIPLE (Session 6)

The auxiliary verb "be" follows a different pattern than the auxiliary verbs above.

- BE functions as an auxiliary when it *works alongside another verb to form a tense to describe things like an ongoing action or temporary state*.
- When the verb "be" functions as an AUX VERB in a question, it follows this grammar recipe:
AUX verb (am / am not / is / isn't / are / aren't / was / wasn't / were / weren't) + subject + main verb as PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ING) + ?
- Examples:
 - > "What are you doing?" — are is the auxiliary; doing is the main verb
 - > "Was she crying?" — was is the auxiliary; crying is the main verb
 - > "Why is he laughing?" — is is the auxiliary; laughing is the main verb

3. Recipe C — BE as MAIN VERB

"Be" can also function as the main verb in a statement or question when it describes things like *who* someone is, *what* something is, *where* someone is, or *what* something is like. In this role, no other verb follows.

- If the verb "be" functions as the MAIN VERB, it follows this grammar recipe:
> **BE (am / am not / is / isn't / are / aren't / was / wasn't / were / weren't) + subject + ?**
- Examples:
 - > "Is she a teacher?"
 - > "Are you tired?"
 - > "Were they in the library?"
 - > "Is this for the bake sale?"
 - > "Are you serious?"
 - > "Where were you?"

Summary: How and when to use “BE” to form a question:

A. In the question patterns we have studied, the verb BE can function in three ways.

1. In its base form as the main verb, paired with an auxiliary verb
 - **Recipe A (aux verb + subject + be + ?)**
 - > “Will you be here soon?”
 - > “Should she be his girlfriend?”
2. As an auxiliary verb in one of its conjugated forms to describe an ongoing action that is, was, or will be occurring
 - **Recipe B (am, is, are, was, were + subject + present participle (-ing) + ?)**
 - > “Is Ira speaking too loudly?”
 - > “Was I annoying you?”
3. As the main verb in one of its conjugated forms to describe *who* someone is, what they are like (permanent characteristic), *where* they are (or are from), etc.
 - **Recipe C (am / am not / is / isn’t / are / aren’t / was / wasn’t / were / weren’t) + subject (+ ?)**
 - > Isn’t Lisa beautiful?
 - > Are you mad at me?

B. When forming a question with BE, ask: “what kind of information am I asking about?”

1. If you want to ask about something someone is doing or something that is developing (action in progress):
 - Recipe B: BE as an auxiliary verb (am / am not / is / isn’t / are / aren’t / was / wasn’t / were / weren’t + present participle (-ing) +?):
 - > “What is she doing?”
 - > “Were they arguing?”
 - > “Isn’t he coming?”
2. If you want to ask a question about *who* someone is, what they are like (permanent characteristic), *where* they are (or are from):
 - Recipe C: BE is the main verb (am / am not / is / isn’t / are / aren’t / was / wasn’t / were / weren’t + subject + ?)
 - > “Is she a teacher?” (who)
 - > “Are you tired?” (what they are like)
 - > “Is he charming?” (what they are like — adjective ending in -ing)
 - > “Were they in the library?” (where)
 - Watch out: As in the case of “charming” above, some adjectives end in -ing — such as annoying, charming, boring, exciting. These describe qualities, not actions.
 - > “Is she annoying?” — “annoying” is an adjective describing a quality → Recipe C
 - > “Is she annoying the cat?” — “annoying” is a verb describing action in progress. → Recipe B

C. A note on the word “being”: When “being” appears after another form of “BE,” it is acting as the present participle, paired with be as an aux verb

- Recipe B: BE as an auxiliary verb (is/are/was/were + being (present participle (-ing) + adj + ?)
 - > Example: “Is he being sarcastic?”

"BE" as auxiliary VERB and as MAIN VERB

"BE" VERB	"BE" as AUXILIARY VERB Aux + subject + PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ING)	"BE" as MAIN VERB BE + subject + ?
is / isn't	"What is she thinking ?" vs. What did she think ? "Isn't he still dating Genevieve?"	"Is this for the PTA bake sale?" "Isn't she your sister?"
are / aren't	"What are you doing here?" "Aren't you going to say anything?"	"Are you serious?" "Aren't we done yet?"
was / wasn't	"Why was he acting like that?" "Wasn't he sitting right next to her?"	"How long was she gone?" "Wasn't she your friend?"
were / weren't	"What were you two talking about?" "Why weren't you paying attention?"	"Where were you?" "Weren't you scared?"
am / *am not	"Why am I even doing this?" **"Am I not making myself clear?" <u>*Note: "am not" has no standard contraction in questions. "Aren't I?" is used informally. Don't use "ain't." You will sound uneducated. ;) It is not proper grammar.</u>	"What kind of mood am I in?" "Aren't I good enough?"

Question Formation — Reference Table

Question Type	Recipe	Example
do, don't, does, doesn't did, didn't	Aux + subject + BASE FORM + ?	"What do you talk about?"
can, can't, could, couldn't, will, won't would, wouldn't, should, shouldn't, must, mustn't	Aux + subject + BASE FORM + ?	"Why can't we just go?"
shall, may, might, shan't (rare), may not, might not	Aux + subject + BASE FORM + ?	"May I use your bathroom?"
am, am not, is, isn't, are, aren't, was, wasn't, were, weren't as AUXILIARY	Aux + subject + PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ing) + ?	"What are you doing here?"
am, am not, is, isn't, are, aren't, was, wasn't, were, weren't as MAIN VERB	BE + subject + ?	"Is this for the bake sale?"
have, haven't, has, hasn't, had, hadn't	Aux + subject + PAST PARTICIPLE + ?	"How long have they been dating?"
who / what / which as SUBJECT	Question word + verb (agrees with subject) + ?	"Who knows about the letters?"
who / what / which as OBJECT	Aux + subject + appropriate verb form + ?	"Who did Peter tell the secret to?"
where / when / why / how	Aux + subject + appropriate verb form + ?	"Why won't you answer?"

Notes

- *May* and *might* have no standard negative contractions. 'May not' and 'might not' are always written in full.
- *Shall* and its negative, *shan't*, are rarely used in everyday American English.
- *Mustn't* is uncommon in American English. 'Don't have to' or 'can't' express the same idea.
- *Won't* is irregular because it does not follow the pattern of will + n't.
- *Am not* has no standard contraction in statements. In questions, 'aren't I?' is the accepted informal form. 'Am I not?' is formal.

SESSION 8: PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Chapters 41–48 & The Law of Compulsive Behavior

GRAMMAR

Section 1 — Identify the recipe: A (aux + base form), B (be as auxiliary + present participle), or C (be as main verb)

1. "Is she planning to go on the ski trip?"
2. "What did Peter say to her at the locker?"
3. "Weren't they bickering about the cookie list?"
4. "Is Josh your next-door neighbor?"
5. "Will she tell Margot about the kiss?"
6. "What was he thinking when he kissed her?"
7. "Wasn't that his favorite hoodie?"
8. "Must she keep the arrangement a secret?"
9. "Why was Lara Jean smiling to herself on the way home?"
10. "Were the cupcakes ready before Peter arrived?"

Section 2 — Correct the error

11. "Why is Peter go to the weight room after school?"
12. "What does she doing when Josh kissed her?"
13. "How long she has been waiting for him?"
14. "Should she telling Peter about the kiss?"
15. "Why Josh didn't say anything about Margot?"
16. "What was she think about during the Cookie Bonanza?"
17. "Did the cookies tasted as good as usual?"

Section 3 — Choose the correct form

18. "Why ___ Peter linger at Lara Jean's house after the Cookie Bonanza?" (did / was / were)
19. "What ___ Josh and Lara Jean bickering about?" (did / was / were)
20. "Will Josh ___ anything to Margot when she gets home?" (say / saying / said)
21. "___ she numb inside when Lucas told her the news?" (Was / Did / Does)
22. "Why didn't she ___ him the truth about the kiss?" (tell / told / telling)
23. "What ___ she feel when Peter kissed her?" (did / was / were)
24. "Why ___ Lara Jean smiling to herself on the way home?" (did / was / were)

Section 4 — Write the question

25. he / be / still / thinking / about Margot (present tense)
26. what / she / do / at the Cookie Bonanza (past tense)
27. negative question: she / be / serious / about the ski trip (present tense)
28. why / he / not / want / to leave (past tense)
29. they / be / best friends / before (past tense)
30. why / she / be / lingering / in the kitchen (past tense, progressive)

VOCABULARY

1. Fill in the blank: She and her brother had been ____ all morning about which movie to watch, neither of them willing to give in.
2. True or False: An impulse is something you think about carefully for a long time before deciding to do.
3. Choose the correct sentence:
 - a. He lingered in the doorway, clearly not ready to say goodbye yet.
 - b. He lingered in the doorway, rushing out as quickly as he could.
4. Fill in the blank: She felt ____ after hearing the news — unable to cry, unable to speak, just sitting very still.
5. True or False: A mischievous smile suggests someone is about to do something slightly naughty or playful.
6. Fill in the blank: She acted on a sudden ____ and booked a flight to Paris without telling anyone.
7. True or False: If you bicker with someone, you are having a serious and important argument about something that matters greatly.
8. Which situation best describes someone who is numb?
 - a. A person who feels everything very intensely and cannot stop crying.
 - b. A person who has just received shocking news and cannot feel or react to anything.
 - c. A person who is very cheerful and energetic despite having had a difficult day.
9. Fill in the blank: He had a ____ look on his face, like he was planning something that would definitely get them both in trouble.
10. True or False: If you linger somewhere, you leave as quickly as possible because you have somewhere more important to be.

Recycled Vocabulary — Sessions 1–7

11. Choose the correct sentence:
 - a. She was not someone to trifle with — one wrong move and she would make sure you regretted it.
 - b. She was someone to trifle with — quiet, agreeable, and easy to dismiss.
12. Which situation best describes an impromptu event?
 - a. A board meeting that has been scheduled for months.
 - b. A concert that sold out six months in advance.
 - c. A speech someone gives when they are suddenly called to the front of the room without warning.
13. Which situation best describes someone acting reluctantly?
 - a. A person who happily agrees to help without being asked twice.
 - b. A person who eagerly volunteers before anyone requests it.
 - c. A person who agrees only after being asked several times, clearly unhappy about it.
14. True or False: If you do a double take, you look at something again quickly because you are surprised by what you have just seen.
15. Which situation best describes someone acting sheepishly?
 - a. A person who loudly defends their decision without any apology.

- b. A person who confidently announces they have won an award.
 - c. A person who quietly admits they accidentally sent an email to the wrong person.
16. Fill in the blank: He had a satisfied ____ on his face when he heard that his rival had failed the exam.
17. True or False: A dismissive comment makes someone feel that their ideas are valuable and worth serious consideration.
18. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. The project was a colossally good idea — everyone agreed it would be simple to carry out.
 - b. It was a colossally bad idea — everyone could see that from the beginning.
19. True or False: If you are flustered, you feel calm and fully in control of the situation.
20. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. It was impossible to quantify how much she had contributed — numbers simply could not capture it.
 - b. It was impossible to quantify how much she had contributed, so they gave her an exact figure.
21. Fill in the blank: The fans became ____ when the band walked out on stage, pushing toward the front and screaming.
22. True or False: To covet something means to feel completely indifferent about it, even if it belongs to someone else.
23. Fill in the blank: He felt ____ even thinking about applying to a rival company — his colleagues had trusted him with so much.
24. Fill in the blank: Her parents ____ her for twenty minutes when she got home late, asking where she had been and who she had been with.
25. Fill in the blank: The entire outcome of the negotiation ____ whether the two sides could agree on one key point.
26. Fill in the blank: He became completely ____ after his promotion, constantly reminding everyone of his new title.
27. True or False: If you flinch, you make a small sudden backward movement because something has surprised, hurt, or frightened you.
28. Fill in the blank: The new intern was ____, jumping every time someone walked up behind her with a question.
29. Fill in the blank: The playground was ____ silent — usually at this hour there were children everywhere.
30. Fill in the blank: He announced he was going to become the world's greatest chef after burning his first piece of toast. It was a classic case of ____.
31. True or False: If someone walks into a room full of tension and starts telling jokes, they are probably oblivious to the atmosphere.
32. True or False: A surprise party that turns out to be an empty room would be anticlimactic.
33. True or False: A momentous decision is one that is made quickly and forgotten just as fast.
34. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. If you leave a wound uncleaned, it may fester and heal more quickly.
 - b. If you leave a wound uncleaned, it may fester and become infected.
35. Fill in the blank: After her third failed interview, she started to wonder if she was ____ a career in law.
36. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. She was mesmerized by the performance — she sat perfectly still and did not blink for ten minutes.

- b. She was mesmerized by the performance — she kept checking her phone and counting the minutes until it ended.
37. Fill in the blank: She could not resist ____ about her daughter's acceptance to Harvard — she told absolutely everyone.
38. Fill in the blank: He stared ____ at the old neighborhood, remembering the summers they had spent there as children.
39. True or False: If you do something gleefully, you do it with visible sadness and reluctance.
40. True or False: When you understand something in retrospect, you understood it clearly while it was happening.
41. Fill in the blank: She remained ____ about the new treatment — she had seen too many similar claims turn out to be false.
42. True or False: Serendipity describes a pleasant or interesting event that happens by chance, without being planned.
43. Fill in the blank: He walked out of the meeting with a ____ expression — he had not expected any of what had just been said.
44. True or False: If you do something begrudgingly, you do it even though you feel resentful or unwilling about it.
45. True or False: If someone pauses tantalizingly before answering, they are rushing to give the answer as quickly as possible.

SESSION 8: PRACTICE QUESTIONS—ANSWERS

Chapters 41–48 & The Law of Compulsive Behavior

GRAMMAR - WITH ANSWERS

Section 1 — Identify the recipe: A (aux + base form), B (be as auxiliary + present participle), or C (be as main verb)

1. "Is she planning to go on the ski trip?" **Answer: B — is + present participle planning**
2. "What did Peter say to her at the locker?" **Answer: A — did + base form say**
3. "Weren't they bickering about the cookie list?" **Answer: B — weren't + present participle bickering**
4. "Is Josh your next-door neighbor?" **Answer: C — is as main verb, followed by a noun phrase**
5. "Will she tell Margot about the kiss?" **Answer: A — will + base form tell**
6. "What was he thinking when he kissed her?" **Answer: B — was + present participle thinking**
7. "Wasn't that his favorite hoodie?" **Answer: C — wasn't as main verb, followed by a noun phrase**
8. "Must she keep the arrangement a secret?" **Answer: A — must + base form keep**
9. "Why was Lara Jean smiling to herself on the way home?" **Answer: B — was + present participle smiling**
10. "Were the cupcakes ready before Peter arrived?" **Answer: C — were as main verb, followed by adjective ready**

Section 2 — Correct the error

11. "Why is Peter go to the weight room after school?"
Answer: "Why is Peter going to the weight room after school?" — is + present participle, not base form
12. "What does she doing when Josh kissed her?"
Answer: "What was she doing when Josh kissed her?" — was + present participle; does cannot be used with -ing
13. "How long she has been waiting for him?"
Answer: "How long has she been waiting for him?" — the auxiliary must come before the subject
14. "Should she telling Peter about the kiss?"
Answer: "Should she tell Peter about the kiss?" — modal + base form, not present participle
15. "Why Josh didn't say anything about Margot?"
Answer: "Why didn't Josh say anything about Margot?" — the auxiliary must come before the subject
16. "What was she think about during the Cookie Bonanza?"
Answer: "What was she thinking about during the Cookie Bonanza?" — was + present participle, not base form
17. "Did the cookies tasted as good as usual?"
Answer: "Did the cookies taste as good as usual?" — did + base form, not past tense

Section 3 — Choose the correct form

18. "Why ____ Peter linger at Lara Jean's house after the Cookie Bonanza?" (did / was / were)
Answer: did — did + base form linger

19. "What ___ Josh and Lara Jean bickering about?" (did / was / were)
Answer: were — were + present participle bickering
20. "Will Josh ___ anything to Margot when she gets home?" (say / saying / said)
Answer: say — will + base form
21. "___ she numb inside when Lucas told her the news?" (Was / Did / Does)
Answer: Was — was as main verb + adjective numb
22. "Why didn't she ___ him the truth about the kiss?" (tell / told / telling)
Answer: tell — didn't + base form
23. "What ___ she feel when Peter kissed her?" (did / was / were)
Answer: did — did + base form feel
24. "Why ___ Lara Jean smiling to herself on the way home?" (did / was / were)
Answer: was — was + present participle smiling

Section 4 — Write the question

25. he / be / still / thinking / about Margot (present tense)
Answer: Is he still thinking about Margot?
26. what / she / do / at the Cookie Bonanza (past tense)
Answer: What did she do at the Cookie Bonanza?
27. negative question: she / be / serious / about the ski trip (present tense)
Answer: Isn't she serious about the ski trip?
28. why / he / not / want / to leave (past tense)
Answer: Why didn't he want to leave?
29. they / be / best friends / before (past tense)
Answer: Were they best friends before?
30. why / she / be / lingering / in the kitchen (past tense, progressive)
Answer: Why was she lingering in the kitchen?

VOCABULARY — WITH ANSWERS

1. Fill in the blank: She and her brother had been **bickering** all morning about which movie to watch, neither of them willing to give in.
2. True or **False**: An impulse is something you think about carefully for a long time before deciding to do. **Answer: False. An impulse is a sudden strong desire to do something without thinking about it first.**
3. Choose the correct sentence:
a. **He lingered in the doorway, clearly not ready to say goodbye yet.**
b. He lingered in the doorway, rushing out as quickly as he could.
4. Fill in the blank: She felt **numb** after hearing the news — unable to cry, unable to speak, just sitting very still.
5. **True** or **False**: A mischievous smile suggests someone is about to do something slightly naughty or playful.
6. Fill in the blank: She acted on a sudden **impulse** and booked a flight to Paris without telling anyone.
7. True or **False**: If you bicker with someone, you are having a serious and important argument about something that matters greatly. **Answer: False. To bicker means to argue about something unimportant in an irritable way.**

8. Which situation best describes someone who is numb?
- a. A person who feels everything very intensely and cannot stop crying.
 - b. A person who has just received shocking news and cannot feel or react to anything.**
 - c. A person who is very cheerful and energetic despite having had a difficult day.
9. Fill in the blank: He had a **mischievous** look on his face, like he was planning something that would definitely get them both in trouble.
10. True or **False**: If you linger somewhere, you leave as quickly as possible because you have somewhere more important to be.
- Answer: False. To linger means to stay somewhere longer than necessary, often because you are reluctant to leave.**

Recycled Vocabulary — Sessions 1–7

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14. **True** or **False**: If you do a double take, you look at something again quickly because you are surprised by what you have just seen. **Answer: True.**
15. Which situation best describes someone acting sheepishly?
- a. A person who loudly defends their decision without any apology.
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 - c. A person who quietly admits they accidentally sent an email to the wrong person.**
16. Fill in the blank: He had a satisfied **smirk** on his face when he heard that his rival had failed the exam.
17. True or **False**: A dismissive comment makes someone feel that their ideas are valuable and worth serious consideration. **Answer: False. A dismissive comment shows that you do not think something is worth serious attention.**
18. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. The project was a colossally good idea — everyone agreed it would be simple to carry out.
 - b. It was a colossally bad idea — everyone could see that from the beginning.**
19. True or **False**: If you are flustered, you feel calm and fully in control of the situation. **Answer: False. Flustered means confused, nervous, or rushed.**
20. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. It was impossible to quantify how much she had contributed — numbers simply could not capture it.**
 - b. It was impossible to quantify how much she had contributed, so they gave her an exact figure.

21. Fill in the blank: The fans became **frenzied** when the band walked out on stage, pushing toward the front and screaming.
22. True or **False**: To covet something means to feel completely indifferent about it, even if it belongs to someone else. Answer: **False. To covet means to strongly want something, especially something that belongs to someone else.**
23. Fill in the blank: He felt **traitorous** even thinking about applying to a rival company — his colleagues had trusted him with so much.
24. Fill in the blank: Her parents **interrogated** her for twenty minutes when she got home late, asking where she had been and who she had been with.
25. Fill in the blank: The entire outcome of the negotiation **hinged on** whether the two sides could agree on one key point.
26. Fill in the blank: He became completely **insufferable** after his promotion, constantly reminding everyone of his new title.
27. **True** or False: If you flinch, you make a small sudden backward movement because something has surprised, hurt, or frightened you. Answer: **True.**
28. Fill in the blank: The new intern was **skittish**, jumping every time someone walked up behind her with a question.
29. Fill in the blank: The playground was **eerily** silent — usually at this hour there were children everywhere.
30. Fill in the blank: He announced he was going to become the world's greatest chef after burning his first piece of toast. It was a classic case of **delusions of grandeur**.
31. **True** or False: If someone walks into a room full of tension and starts telling jokes, they are probably oblivious to the atmosphere. Answer: **True.**
32. **True** or False: A surprise party that turns out to be an empty room would be anticlimactic. Answer: **True.**
33. True or **False**: A momentous decision is one that is made quickly and forgotten just as fast. Answer: **False. Momentous means very important because of the effects it will have in the future.**
34. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. If you leave a wound uncleaned, it may fester and heal more quickly.
 - b. If you leave a wound uncleaned, it may fester and become infected.**
35. Fill in the blank: After her third failed interview, she started to wonder if she was **not cut out for** a career in law.
36. Choose the correct sentence:
- a. She was mesmerized by the performance — she sat perfectly still and did not blink for ten minutes.**
 - b. She was mesmerized by the performance — she kept checking her phone and counting the minutes until it ended.
37. Fill in the blank: She could not resist **crowding** about her daughter's acceptance to Harvard — she told absolutely everyone.
38. Fill in the blank: He stared **wistfully** at the old neighborhood, remembering the summers they had spent there as children.
39. True or **False**: If you do something gleefully, you do it with visible sadness and reluctance. Answer: **False. Gleefully means with great delight, often at someone else's expense.**
40. True or **False**: When you understand something in retrospect, you understood it clearly while it was

happening. **Answer: False. In retrospect means understanding something afterwards, using knowledge gained later.**

41. Fill in the blank: She remained skeptical about the new treatment — she had seen too many similar claims turn out to be false. **Answer: skeptical**
42. **True** or False: Serendipity describes a pleasant or interesting event that happens by chance, without being planned. **Answer: True.**
43. Fill in the blank: He walked out of the meeting with a shell-shocked expression — he had not expected any of what had just been said.
44. **True** or False: If you do something begrudgingly, you do it even though you feel resentful or unwilling about it. **Answer: True.**
45. True or **False**: If someone pauses tantalizingly before answering, they are rushing to give the answer as quickly as possible. **Answer: False. Tantalizingly means deliberately delaying in a way that builds excitement or suspense.**