

The Crucible, Act II by Arthur Miller
Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises

Exercise A *Fill in the blanks, using each word from Word List A only once.*

Many people nowadays seem critical or even [1] _____ about the trend in America towards a lawsuit-happy society. These days, it does not take a disaster or a(n) [2] _____ to trigger a lawsuit. On the contrary, even the slightest mistake or misfortune can lead to a formal action before a judge or [3] _____. Often a jury is urged to [4] _____ the complaining party for damages. In such cases, the witnesses may seem angry or [5] _____. Sometimes, however, this appearance of outrage is really part of an overall strategy of [6] _____. Lawyers often urge their clients not to hesitate or [7] _____ in presenting the most dramatic picture possible of their plight. Some commentators on this legal picture have resorted to [8] _____, pointing out that the only people who seem certain to gain much from these disputes are the lawyers themselves!

Exercise B *Decide whether each statement below is true or false. Circle T or F, and explain your answer.*

1. If you felt you deserved a prize, you might *begrudge* its award to someone else.
T / F _____
2. Enemies insulting each other at the top of their voice are behaving *civilly*.
T / F _____
3. When you answer a question *evasively*, you are speaking in a straightforward fashion.
T / F _____
4. Someone *flailing* in the surf is a candidate for rescue by a lifeguard.
T / F _____
5. Those who *flinch* before a challenge can be said to meet it enthusiastically.
T / F _____
6. Employees who perform their job *ineptly* are likely to be promoted.
T / F _____
7. A *weighty* decision deserves much research and consideration beforehand.
T / F _____
8. A *wily* character should not be trusted.
T / F _____