

LESSON 10

Open and Shut

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Numerus clausus.

A closed number (a quota that excludes all but a few).

Key Words

apocalypse	chasten	diaspora
apocryphal	clavier	diatribe
apoplexy	conclave	enclave
apostate	diadem	occlusion
castigate	diametrical	recluse

Familiar Words

apogee
apology
apostle
apostrophe
apothecary
apotheosis

APO <G. "away from"

1. **apocalypse** (ə pŏk' ə līps')

[*kaluptein* <G. "to cover"]

n. 1. A prophetic disclosure or revelation, especially concerning a universal cataclysm.



Old Norse literature describes the **apocalypse** known as Ragnarok, the ultimate battle with the powers of evil that will destroy both the divine and mortal worlds.

2. Any widespread destruction.

The anarchic regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge militia, who ruled Cambodia in the 1970s, created an **apocalypse** that destroyed the country's economy and took the lives of at least three million Cambodians.

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Challenge Words

apocatastasis
 apocope
 apodictic
 apodosis
 apologue
 apothegm

3. (capitalized) The last book of the Bible, also known as Revelation, which contains prophecies about the ultimate destruction of the world.

The most famous of Albrecht Dürer's woodcuts depicting scenes from the **Apocalypse** shows the Four Horsemen of the **Apocalypse**—Pestilence, Famine, War, and Death—spreading destruction as they ride across the earth.

apocalyptic, *adj.*; **apocalyptic**, *adj.*; **apocalypticism**, *n.*;
apocalypticist, *n.*

2. **apocryphal** (ə pŏk' rə fəl) [*kruptein* <G. "to hide"]
adj. False; counterfeit; doubtful, especially in authorship or authenticity.

According to Sir Isaac Newton, the idea for his theory of gravity came to him when he saw an apple fall, but the story that the apple fell on his head is surely **apocryphal**.

apocrypha, *n.*; **Apocrypha**, *n.*

NOTA BENE: Used with a capital letter, *Apocryphal* and *Apocrypha* refer specifically to fourteen ancient texts whose inclusion in the Bible is a topic of disagreement. Although included in Bibles authorized by the Roman Catholic Church, these books are generally omitted from Protestant Bibles on the grounds that they are not included in ancient Hebrew texts.

3. **apoplexy** (äp' ə plĕk' sē) [*plessein* <G. "to strike"]
n. A stroke; a sudden loss of muscular control, sensation, or consciousness usually resulting from rupture or blockage of a blood vessel (often used hyperbolically to describe a state of extreme rage that produces exaggerated responses).



Mary Todd Lincoln, the president's wife, suffered attacks of **apoplexy** during which she would writhe, foam at the mouth, and lose consciousness.

apoplectic, *adj.*

4. **apostate** (ə pŏs' tāt, ə pŏs' tīt) [*histanai* <G. "to stand"]
n. A person who forsakes his or her own principles, religion, or allegiances.

A longtime Democrat, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina became a political **apostate** in 1964 when he joined the Republican party.

apostasy, *n.*; **apostate**, *adj.*; **apostatize**, *v.*