

These ten expressive adjectives, needless to say, are not restricted to lying or liars. Note their general meanings:

1. *notorious* well-known for some bad quality—a *notorious* philanderer
2. *consummate* perfect, highly skilled—his *consummate* artistry at the piano keyboard
3. *incorrigible* beyond reform—an *incorrigible* optimist
4. *inveterate* long-accustomed, deeply habituated—an *inveterate* narcotic addict (this adjective, like *notorious*, is restricted to unfavorable conditions)
5. *congenital* happening at or during birth—a *congenital* deformity
6. *chronic* going on for a long time—*chronic* appendicitis
7. *psychopathic* mentally or emotionally diseased—a *psychopathic* fear of dogs
8. *unconscionable* without pangs of conscience—his *unconscionable* and cavalier treatment of his wife
9. *glib* smooth, suspiciously fluent—a *glib* talker
10. *egregious* outstandingly bad or vicious—an *egregious* error

With the exception of *consummate* and *congenital*, all ten adjectives have strongly derogatory implications and are generally used to describe people, characteristics, or conditions of which we disapprove.

Can you pronounce the words?

1. *notorious* no-TORE-e-us
- *2. *consummate* kon-SUMM-it
- *3. *incorrigible* in-KORR-i-ji-b'l
4. *inveterate* in-VEI-er-it
5. *congenital* kon-JEN-i-t'l
6. *chronic* KRON-ik
7. *psychopathic* sye-ko-PATH-ik
- *8. *unconscionable* un-KON-shon-a-b'l

9. *glib* GLIB
- *10. *egregious* e-GREE-jus

Can you work with the words?

Match words and definitions.

Word	Definition
1. notorious	a. beyond reform
2. consummate	b. continuing over a long period of time
3. incorrigible	c. insane; mentally unbalanced
4. inveterate	d. from long-standing habit
5. congenital	e. suspiciously smooth
6. chronic	f. without conscience or scruples
7. psychopathic	g. outstandingly bad
8. unconscionable	h. unfavorably known
9. glib	i. from birth
10. egregious	j. finished, perfect, artistic

KEY: 1-h, 2-j, 3-a, 4-d, 5-i, 6-b, 7-c, 8-f, 9-e, 10-g

Do you understand the words?

React quickly to the following questions.

1. Do people become *notorious* for good acts? YES NO
2. Is Yehudi Menuhin considered a *consummate* musical genius? YES NO
3. If a criminal is truly *incorrigible*, is there any point to attempting to rehabilitate him? YES NO
4. Does an *inveterate* smoker smoke only occasionally? YES NO
5. Is a *congenital* deformity one that occurs late in life? YES NO
6. Is a *chronic* invalid ill most of the time? YES NO
7. Has a *psychopathic* personality lost touch with reality? YES NO
8. Does an *unconscionable* act of cruelty cause its perpetrator remorse or compunction? YES NO