
LEV comes from the Latin adjective *levis*, meaning “light,” and the verb *levare*, meaning “to raise or lighten.” So a *lever* is a bar used to lift something, by means of *leverage*. And *levitation* is the magician’s trick in which a body seems to rise into the air by itself.

alleviate \ə-^lē-vē-^āt\ To lighten, lessen, or relieve, especially physical or mental suffering.

- Cold compresses alleviated the pain of the physical injury, but only time could alleviate the effect of the insult.

Physical pain or emotional anguish, or a water shortage or traffic congestion, can all be alleviated by providing the appropriate remedy. But some pain or anguish or shortage or congestion will remain: to alleviate is not to cure.

elevation \^le-lə-^{vā}-shən\ (1) The height of a place. (2) The act or result of lifting or raising someone or something.

- Her doctor is concerned about the elevation of her blood pressure since her last visit.

Quizzes

A. Indicate whether the following pairs of words have the same or different meanings:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. decriminalize / tolerate | same ___ / different ___ |
| 2. probity / fraud | same ___ / different ___ |
| 3. criminology / murder | same ___ / different ___ |
| 4. incriminate / acquit | same ___ / different ___ |
| 5. probate / trial | same ___ / different ___ |
| 6. recrimination / faultfinding | same ___ / different ___ |
| 7. reprobate / scoundrel | same ___ / different ___ |
| 8. approbation / criticism | same ___ / different ___ |

B. Match the definition on the left to the correct word on the right:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. utter honesty | a. approbation |
| 2. approval | b. reprobate |
| 3. rascal | c. recrimination |
| 4. legal process for wills | d. criminology |
| 5. study of illegal behavior | e. probity |
| 6. accuse | f. probate |
| 7. reduce penalty for | g. decriminalize |
| 8. counterattack | h. incriminate |

Words from Mythology and History

cicerone \^lsi-sə-^{rō}-nē\ A guide, especially one who takes tourists to museums, monuments, or architectural sites and explains what is being seen.

- On Crete they sought out a highly recommended cicerone, hoping to receive the best possible introduction to the noteworthy historical sites.

The Roman statesman and orator Cicero was renowned for his elegant style and great knowledge (and occasional long-windedness). So 18th-century Italians seem to have given the name *cicerone* to the guides who would show well-educated foreigners around the great cultural sites of the ancient Roman empire—guides who sought to be as eloquent and informed as Cicero in explaining the world in which he lived.

hector \^hhek-tər\ To bully or harass by bluster or personal pressure.

- He would swagger around the apartment entrance with his friends and hector the terrified inhabitants going in and out.