

Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

1. adjourn
(ə jərn')

(v.) to stop proceedings temporarily; move to another place
The judge _____ the hearing until ten o'clock the following morning.
SYNONYMS: postpone, suspend, discontinue
ANTONYMS: open, call to order

2. alien
(ā' lē ən)

(n.) a citizen of another country; (adj.) foreign, strange
Movies about _____ from outer space have been extremely popular for decades.
An _____ species of plant or animal can upset the balance of an ecosystem.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) exotic, unfamiliar
ANTONYMS: (adj.) native, endemic, familiar

3. comely
(kəm' lē)

(adj.) having a pleasing appearance
The proud parents and their _____ children posed for a family portrait.
SYNONYMS: good-looking, attractive, bonny
ANTONYMS: plain, homely, ugly, repulsive

4. compensate
(käm' pən sāt)

(v.) to make up for; to repay for services
The manufacturer was ordered to _____ customers injured by the defective product.
SYNONYMS: pay back, reimburse, recompense
ANTONYMS: fail to reward, stiff

5. dissolute
(dis' ə lüt)

(adj.) loose in one's morals or behavior
The mad Roman emperor Caligula led an extravagant and _____ life.
SYNONYMS: dissipated, debauched, immoral, corrupt
ANTONYMS: virtuous, chaste, moral, seemly, proper

6. erratic
(e rat' ik)

(adj.) not regular or consistent; different from what is ordinarily expected; undependable
Students who have an _____ attendance record may find themselves disciplined by the principal.
SYNONYMS: irregular, inconsistent, unpredictable
ANTONYMS: steady, consistent, dependable

7. expulsion
(ek spəl' shən)

(*n.*) the process of driving or forcing out

The story of the _____ of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is told in Genesis.

SYNONYMS: ejection, ouster, eviction

ANTONYMS: admittance, admission

8. feint
(fānt)

(*n.*) a deliberately deceptive movement; a pretense; (*v.*) to make a deceptive movement; to make a pretense of

The chess master's opening _____ gave her an immediate advantage.

His uncanny ability to _____ and counterpunch made the champ unbeatable.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) trick, ruse, subterfuge, dodge, bluff

9. fodder
(fād' ər)

(*n.*) food for horses or cattle; raw material for a designated purpose

Every experience in life is _____ for a novelist's imagination.

SYNONYMS: feed, provender

10. fortify
(fôr' tə fī)

(*v.*) to strengthen, build up

The soldiers _____ the garrison against the expected attack.

SYNONYMS: reinforce, shore up

ANTONYMS: weaken, undermine, sap, impair

11. illegible
(i lej' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) difficult or impossible to read

The effects of air pollution have rendered the inscriptions on many old gravestones _____.

SYNONYMS: unreadable, indecipherable, scribbled

ANTONYMS: readable, decipherable, distinct, clear

12. jeer
(jēr)

(*v.*) to make fun of rudely or unkindly; (*n.*) a rude remark of derision

To _____ at someone with a disability is absolutely inexcusable.

Umpires and other referees quickly become immune to the _____ of angry fans.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) laugh at, mock, taunt

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) applause, plaudits, accolades

13. lucrative
(lü' krə tiv)

(*adj.*) bringing in money; profitable

Many people find that they can turn a favorite hobby into a highly _____ business.

SYNONYMS: gainful, moneymaking

ANTONYMS: unprofitable, losing, in the red

- 14. mediocre**
(mē dē ō' kər)
(*adj.*) average, ordinary, undistinguished
The team's number-one draft pick turned out to be a rather _____ player, not a star who could lead them to the championship.
SYNONYM: run-of-the-mill
ANTONYMS: exceptional, outstanding, distinguished
- 15. proliferate**
(prō lif' ə rāt)
(*v.*) to reproduce, increase, or spread rapidly
Because malignant cells _____, early detection of cancer is absolutely crucial to successful treatment.
SYNONYMS: multiply, mushroom, burgeon
ANTONYMS: decrease, diminish, dwindle, slack off
- 16. subjugate**
(səb' jū gāt)
(*v.*) to conquer by force, bring under complete control
"We must act quickly," the general said, "in order to _____ the rebel forces."
SYNONYMS: subdue, vanquish, master
ANTONYMS: be conquered, submit, surrender
- 17. sully**
(səl' ē)
(*v.*) to soil, stain, tarnish, defile, besmirch
The Watergate scandal _____ the image of politicians in the minds of many voters.
SYNONYMS: pollute, taint, smear
ANTONYMS: cleanse, purify, decontaminate
- 18. tantalize**
(tan' tə līz)
(*v.*) to tease, torment by teasing
When I am on a diet, the treats in bakery windows seem to have been put there to _____ me.
SYNONYMS: tempt, lead on, make one's mouth water
ANTONYMS: satisfy, fulfill, gratify
- 19. terse**
(tərs)
(*adj.*) brief and to the point
The manuscript for my short story was returned to me with a _____ letter of rejection.
SYNONYMS: concise, succinct, crisp, short and sweet
ANTONYMS: verbose, wordy, diffuse, prolix
- 20. unflinching**
(ən flin' chɪŋ)
(*adj.*) firm, showing no signs of fear, not drawing back
Everyone admires the _____ courage with which firefighters and other rescue workers carry out their dangerous jobs.
SYNONYMS: resolute, steadfast, unwavering
ANTONYMS: irresolute, wavering, vacillating

Completing the Sentence

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. To enlarge the areas under their control, kings of old sent out their armies to _____ their neighbors.
2. Our laws protect not only citizens but also _____ legally residing in this country.
3. When the national economy is expanding, new housing developments begin to _____; when times are lean, construction slacks off.
4. In spite of all the adverse criticism her ideas have received, she remains _____ in her determination to improve our community.
5. Despite all my efforts to make this a(n) _____ enterprise, it continues to be a decidedly unprofitable organization.
6. Since there is a charge for every word used in it, a telegram is usually as _____ as possible.
7. The farmer must provide storage facilities for the _____ he plans to set aside for his cattle during the long winter.
8. The thoroughly disgraceful behavior of a few dissipated officers effectively _____ the honor of the entire unit.
9. How can you be so cruel as to _____ those poor dogs by offering them tidbits that you will never let them have?
10. Their so-called peace initiative proved to be nothing more than a clever _____ designed to lull the enemy into a false sense of security.
11. Though he had a great sinker ball, he was so _____ on the mound that fans started to call him "Wild Pitch Hickok."
12. Our doctor's handwriting is so _____ that my brother used one of his prescriptions as a teacher's pass.
13. When it is time to end one of our meetings, a member must make a motion to _____.
14. Though she is not a beautiful woman by conventional standards, she is certainly _____ and appealing.
15. The speaker advised us not to imitate the _____ kind of person who squanders time and money in the vain pursuit of pleasure.
16. He was a changed young man after his _____ from West Point for "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman."
17. Their only response to my warnings was to _____ at me scornfully and go ahead with their plans.

- 18.** Some people drink quantities of orange juice and swallow vitamin C tablets in a valiant attempt to _____ themselves against winter colds.
- 19.** A(n) _____ student is one who neither fails any subject nor receives any marks that are above average.
- 20.** The fact that you say you are truly sorry does not _____ for the pain I have suffered as a result of your cruelty.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same** or **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. found myself in **unfamiliar** territory
2. ordered to **reimburse** the victims of the swindle
3. tried to **master** my hot temper
4. a reputation for being **unpredictable**
5. ordered the **ouster** of seven career diplomats
6. **dodged** to the left and ran for a touchdown
7. an ample supply of **feed** for our livestock
8. written in an **indecipherable** scrawl
9. **suspend** the discussion because of the late hour
10. plans to seek more **gainful** employment
11. dandelions that seem to **multiply** overnight
12. conduct that **taints** the company's reputation
13. **tempted** by promises of adventure
14. **unwavering** in the pursuit of justice
15. **taunted** by the bully

Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

16. a person with a **plain** face
17. **undermined** the building's foundation
18. issued a **verbose** report on the economy
19. a thoroughly **virtuous** individual
20. judged the work to be **exceptional**

Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. Though a trained veteran is often a well-tuned fighting machine, a raw recruit is sometimes no better than cannon (**feint**, **fodder**).
2. To keep my self-respect, I must stand (**comely**, **unflinching**) before the authorities and tell them the truth as I see it.
3. After the formal dinner was over, we (**adjourned**, **tantalized**) to the den in order to continue our conversation in a more relaxed atmosphere.
4. As soon as I entered that charming little cottage, I noticed that everything in it was neat and (**erratic**, **comely**).
5. At one point in our fencing match, my opponent unexpectedly (**sullied**, **feinted**) to the left and threw me completely off guard.
6. Instead of all those long, flowery passages, why don't you try to write more in the (**mediocre**, **terse**) and direct style of a good newspaper reporter?
7. I can understand how poor people sometimes feel (**tantalized**, **jeered**) by the wealth and luxuries they see displayed on TV programs.
8. His behavior is so (**erratic**, **terse**) that we never know what to expect from him.
9. When I first noticed how (**illegible**, **lucrative**) my roommate's handwriting was, I suggested that he sign up immediately for a course in penmanship.
10. I would be unwilling to vote for the (**expulsion**, **fodder**) of club members just because they are behind in their dues.
11. The desire to force everyone to accept the same set of ideas is completely (**illegible**, **alien**) to the spirit of democracy.
12. We all experience fear and panic, but the leader of a great nation must be able to (**tantalize**, **subjugate**) such emotions.
13. In my opinion, his writing is so bad that he will have to improve a great deal just to reach the level of (**mediocrity**, **compensation**).
14. "No," she said, "I won't (**sully**, **adjourn**) your ears by repeating those mean and nasty rumors."
15. All great athletes should know that the same fans who are cheering them today may be (**jeering**, **subjugating**) them tomorrow.
16. For centuries people have turned to various kinds of religious literature to (**fortify**, **proliferate**) themselves against the shocks of daily life.
17. Even though I must work hard for a living, I feel that the company I'm with amply (**subjugates**, **compensates**) me for my time and effort.
18. *The Rake's Progress* paints a grim and uncompromising picture of some of the more (**dissolute**, **alien**) and degrading aspects of human behavior.
19. Over the years I've noticed one thing about rumors: Where the facts are few, fictions (**proliferate**, **fortify**).
20. A best-selling book that is then made into a movie may be more (**dissolute**, **lucrative**) than the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Read the following passage, in which words that have been studied in this unit appear in **boldface**. For each statement given below the passage by circling the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the word.

Pushing the Limits

Martha Graham was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, in 1894. She was the oldest of three sisters. She considered herself plain and her sisters **comely**, but she **compensated for** this with her athleticism and forceful personality. In 1909, the family moved to Santa Barbara, California. It was there that the 17-year-old Martha had an experience that changed her life. She saw a poster advertising a performance by the dancer Ruth St. Denis. Martha was so fascinated by the exotic, gorgeously costumed image of the dancer that she begged her parents to take her to the performance. Once she saw St. Denis on stage, she knew that she too would become a dancer. (Line)



Martha Graham, dancer and choreographer

In 1916, she enrolled at the Denishawn School, run by St. Denis and her husband Ted Shawn. In 1923, she set out on her own. She took a **lucrative** job in New York as a solo dancer in a revue and became a Broadway star. Then, in 1929, she started her own dance company and began to choreograph. (10)

Everything was **fodder** for her creative imagination. She drew on childhood memories, her experiences as a dancer, and the innovative ideas in art and music that were swirling around her. Graham created a new language of movement that was thoroughly **alien** to classical ballet technique. It was angular and even distorted, a vehicle for expressing intense emotion. Many of her works were based on ancient Greek legends and biblical and religious themes. Other dances dealt with life on the American frontier. She was **unflinching** in the pursuit of her vision of what dance should be, always pushing the limits. (15)

Martha Graham stopped performing at age 74 but continued to choreograph until her death in 1991, at age 96. Today, the Graham technique is part of the training and skills of dancers everywhere. (20)

1. The meaning of **comely** (line 2) is

- a. popular c. polite
b. attractive d. homely

2. **Compensated for** (line 3) means

- a. apologized for c. disregarded
b. explained d. made up for

3. **Lucrative** (line 11) is best defined as

- a. profitable c. temporary
b. glamorous d. part-time

4. The meaning of **fodder** (line 16) is

- a. provender c. raw material
b. inspiration d. decoration

5. **Alien** (line 21) most nearly means

- a. familiar c. complementary
b. subordinate d. foreign

6. **Unflinching** (line 26) is best defined as

- a. resolute c. loyal
b. vacillating d. original