

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. accomplice
(ə kām' plis)

(n.) a person who takes part in a crime

The driver of the getaway car was arrested and tried as an _____ in the daring bank robbery.

SYNONYMS: partner in crime, confederate

8.

2. annihilate
(ə nī' ə lāt)

(v.) to destroy completely

Throughout history, nations that are bitter enemies have sought to _____ each other.

SYNONYMS: obliterate, decimate, demolish

ANTONYMS: foster, promote, encourage, nurture

9.

3. arbitrary
(är' bə trer ē)

(adj.) unreasonable; based on one's wishes or whims without regard for reason or fairness

A judge may be criticized for rulings that appear to be _____ and without legal precedent.

SYNONYMS: capricious, high-handed, autocratic

ANTONYMS: reasoned, rational, objective, equitable

10.

4. brazen
(brā' zən)

(adj.) shameless, impudent; made of brass

Behavior considered _____ in one era may be deemed perfectly acceptable in another.

SYNONYMS: saucy, bold

ANTONYMS: deferential, respectful, self-effacing

11.

5. catalyst
(kat' ə l ist)

(n.) a substance that causes or hastens a chemical reaction; any agent that causes change

Enzymes are _____ that aid in the digestion of food.

SYNONYMS: stimulus, spur, instigator

12.

6. exodus
(ek' sə dəs)

(n.) a large-scale departure or flight

The _____ of African Americans to the industrialized northern states is known as the Great Migration.

SYNONYMS: emigration, escape, hegira

ANTONYMS: immigration, influx, arrival, entrance

13.

7. facilitate
(fə sil' ə tāt)

(v.) to make easier; to assist

The Federal Reserve Board may lower interest rates in order to _____ economic growth.

SYNONYMS: ease, smooth the way, simplify
 ANTONYMS: hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede

8. incorrigible
 (in kă' rə jə bəl)

(*adj.*) not able to be corrected; beyond control

Criminals deemed _____ can expect to receive maximum sentences for their offenses against society.

SYNONYMS: unruly, intractable, incurable, inveterate
 ANTONYMS: tractable, docile, curable, repairable

9. latent
 (lāt' ənt)

(*adj.*) hidden, present but not realized

Don't you think it's sad that many people use only a small fraction of their _____ abilities?

SYNONYMS: dormant, inactive, undeveloped
 ANTONYMS: exposed, manifest, evident

10. militant
 (mil' ə tənt)

(*adj.*) given to fighting; active and aggressive in support of a cause; (*n.*) an activist

In the struggle for civil rights, Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated peaceful rather than _____ protest.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a _____ in the fight for woman suffrage.

SYNONYM: (*adj.*) truculent
 ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) unassertive, peaceable, passive

11. morose
 (mə rōs')

(*adj.*) having a gloomy or sullen manner; not friendly or sociable

Heathcliff is the _____ and vengeful protagonist in Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*.

SYNONYMS: morbid, doleful
 ANTONYMS: cheerful, blithe, jaunty, buoyant

12. opaque
 (ō pāk')

(*adj.*) not letting light through; not clear or lucid; dense, stupid

I have read that book twice, but I still find the author's meaning completely _____.

SYNONYMS: hazy, cloudy, foggy, murky, dull, obtuse
 ANTONYMS: transparent, clear, bright, perceptive

13. paramount
 (par' ə maünt)

(*adj.*) chief in importance, above all others

Voters should insist that candidates for high office address the _____ issues facing our society.

SYNONYMS: supreme, foremost, primary, dominant
 ANTONYMS: secondary, subordinate, ancillary

14. prattle
(prat' əl)

(v.) to talk in an aimless, foolish, or simple way; to babble;
(n.) baby talk; babble

Some people can _____ away on
the phone for hours on end.

Over time, recognizable words become part of a toddler's
cheerful _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) chatter; (n.) twaddle, gibberish, piffle

15. rebut
(ri bət')

(v.) to offer arguments or evidence that contradicts an assertion;
to refute

It is a defense lawyer's job to _____
the charges made by the prosecutor.

SYNONYMS: disprove, confute, shoot holes in

ANTONYMS: confirm, corroborate, substantiate

16. reprimand
(rep' rə mand)

(v.) to scold; find fault with; (n.) a rebuke

A judge may need to _____ a
lawyer for repeatedly harassing a witness.

An employee who frequently violates a company's rules
may receive a written _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) reprove, reproach; (n.) reproof

ANTONYMS: (v.) praise, pat on the back

17. servitude
(sər' və tüd)

(n.) slavery, forced labor

In *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean is sentenced to many years
of _____ for stealing a loaf of bread.

SYNONYMS: captivity, bondage, thralldom

ANTONYMS: freedom, liberty

18. slapdash
(slap' dash)

(adj.) careless and hasty

Landlords who routinely make _____
repairs should be considered negligent.

SYNONYMS: cursory, perfunctory, sloppy, slipshod

ANTONYMS: painstaking, meticulous, thorough, in-depth

19. stagnant
(stag' nənt)

(adj.) not running or flowing; foul from standing still; inactive,
sluggish, dull

It is dangerous for hikers to drink water from any source
that appears to be _____.

SYNONYMS: still, motionless, inert, fetid

ANTONYMS: flowing, running, fresh, sweet

20. succumb
(sə kem')

(v.) to give way to superior force, yield

Most dieters occasionally _____
to the lure of a high-calorie dessert.

SYNONYMS: submit, die, expire

ANTONYMS: overcome, master, conquer

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. No matter what make of automobile you have, it is of _____ importance that you learn to drive safely before you use it.
2. After the opposing speakers had both presented their cases, they were allowed time to _____ each other's arguments.
3. The fact that you cannot control those small children does not mean that they are _____.
4. Mom and Dad said nothing when I failed the examination, but the disappointed looks on their faces hurt more than the most severe _____.
5. It is an unfortunate fact that the _____ attitudes of Germany's kaiser and his saber-rattling cronies helped make World War I inevitable.
6. Fighting is considered such a(n) _____ violation of the rules of a game that the offending players are usually severely penalized.
7. Many people came to the New World after they had been sentenced to terms of penal _____ for crimes they had committed.
8. In large areas of the huge swamp, there were _____ pools of water covered with unmoving masses of green slime.
9. "If you spent more time and effort on your essays, they would cease to be such _____ affairs," my older sister wisely observed.
10. The helpful librarian did much to _____ the research for my term paper.
11. The doctor warned relatives that if the patient's condition deteriorated any further, he would _____ to pneumonia.
12. It is a frightening fact of modern life that we now possess the weaponry to _____ not only our enemies but all humankind.
13. In guaranteeing the right to "due process of law," the Constitution protects Americans against _____ arrest and imprisonment.
14. Even though the youngster did not actually steal the vehicle, he acted as one of the thief's _____.
15. The second book of the Old Testament is named for the story it recounts of the _____ of the Israelites from the land of Egypt.
16. Her friends call her "Motormouth" because she has a remarkable capacity to _____ on endlessly about the most trivial matters.
17. If we are going to use this space as a darkroom for photography, we must have a completely _____ covering over the window.

18. Though they had been there all along, Grandma Moses did not discover her _____ artistic talents until well into her seventies.
19. When he was suddenly deprived of everything he valued in life, the poor man became extremely gloomy and _____.
20. In certain industrial processes, _____ speed up the desired reaction by lessening the amount of energy needed to produce it.



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. windows that are **cloudy** with steam and grime _____
2. **demolished** our rivals in the playoffs _____
3. the **flight** of refugees from the war zone _____
4. **reproved** them for their discourteous behavior _____
5. a **fetid** pond clogged with debris _____
6. a moving account of life in **captivity** _____
7. refused to accept such **sloppy** work _____
8. searched for the forger's **confederates** _____
9. **expired** after a long illness _____
10. an **activist** in the campaign against drugs _____
11. served as a **stimulus** for social reforms _____
12. an **incurable** optimist despite many misfortunes _____
13. **impudent** disregard for notions of propriety _____
14. **chattered** about nothing in particular _____
15. the **foremost** authority on the subject _____



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 consistently **cheerful** personality _____
17. will **corroborate** the testimony of eyewitnesses _____
18. a **manifest** knack for mastering foreign languages _____
19. **impeded** the completion of the project _____
20. a series of **rational** decisions _____

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Choosing the Right Word

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

1. It is up to us to get rid of any (**latent, arbitrary**) prejudices that we may still unwittingly hold against members of other races and nationalities.
2. The brook (**prattling, annihilating**) along its rocky course seemed to be conversing wordlessly with the wind murmuring in the trees.
3. I refuse to believe that our society will (**reprimand, succumb**) to the weaknesses which have destroyed other nations.
4. Most historians agree that military disasters during World War I were the (**exodus, catalyst**) that sparked the Russian Revolution of 1917.
5. For the world's starving millions, finding enough food to keep body and soul together has become the (**paramount, latent**) concern in life.
6. During the summer, urban "sun worshippers" begin their weekly (**exodus, servitude**) from the city around 3:00 P.M. on Friday.
7. You may think that his explanation is perfectly clear, but I find it confused and (**brazen, opaque**).
8. Since they are firmly based on the logic of a sentence, the rules of punctuation should not be considered purely (**arbitrary, slapdash**).
9. He has deceived me so many times that I am forced to conclude that he is simply a(n) (**incorrigible, morose**) liar.
10. With their bigger, faster, more experienced players, South High simply (**succumbed, annihilated**) our team, 56 to 7.
11. People who never give any assignment more than a "lick and a promise" may be said to belong to the (**stagnant, slapdash**) school of working.
12. On rare occasions, the U.S. Senate will (**reprimand, prattle**) one of its members who has violated the rules.
13. The best way to (**facilitate, rebut**) the contention that something is not possible to do is to go out and do it.
14. The leaden silence of the afternoon was shattered by the (**opaque, brazen**) voices of trumpets braying fanfares for the returning hero.
15. I don't think it is fair to call him a(n) (**incorrigible, morose**) person just because he was depressed when you met him.
16. While his (**accomplices, militants**) acted as decoys, one of the youngsters attempted to filch a couple of apples from the unguarded bin.
17. Her excellent command of both French and Spanish should (**rebut, facilitate**) her efforts to get a position in the foreign service.
18. Even people who appear to be free may be in (**catalyst, servitude**) to their own passions and prejudices.
19. Unemployment will stay at a high level so long as a nation's economy remains (**stagnant, paramount**).
20. (**Accomplices, Militants**) disgusted with the government's policies took to the streets to register a vote of no confidence.

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

On the Brink

(Line)

The Cuban missile crisis was one of the most dangerous confrontations of the twentieth century. It took place at the height of the Cold War, the fierce struggle between democratic capitalism and communism. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, were **militant** players of the global chess game for political dominance. (5)

Both countries built huge nuclear arsenals, amassing enough weapons to **annihilate** each other many times over. Neither country wanted the other's missiles placed where they would pose a threat. Thus, the Pentagon and the White House were abuzz in October 1962 when American U-2 spy planes spotted unusual activity in Cuba, a Soviet ally. Having a strong presence in the Americas was of **paramount** importance (10)

to the Soviets, and they were in the process of building nuclear missile sites.

An intense debate followed, involving President John F. Kennedy, members of his cabinet, and his military advisors. How should the United States respond to this Soviet move? And what if the U.S. response became the **catalyst** that triggered an all-out nuclear war? (15)

Kennedy decided to impose a naval "quarantine" around Cuba. U.S. ships would seize any Soviet vessels bearing nuclear materials. On October 22, Kennedy demanded that all missiles in Cuba be removed. For two weeks, the world waited in fear, hoping that neither leader would **succumb** to the immense (20) (25)

pressure and act rashly. Finally, on October 28, Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev announced that the missiles would be removed in return for a U.S. guarantee of Cuba's security. Privately, Kennedy also pledged to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey, near the Soviet border. The Cold War rivals had pushed each other to the brink of nuclear war and, to the relief of the world, had stepped back from the precipice. (30)



Cuban refugee in Miami watches President Kennedy's October 22 address.

1. The meaning of **militant** (line 4) is
 - a. passive
 - b. morose
 - c. aggressive
 - d. skillful
2. **Annihilate** (line 6) most nearly means
 - a. obliterate
 - b. deceive
 - c. hurt
 - d. promote
3. **Paramount** (line 10) is best defined as
 - a. secondary
 - b. supreme
 - c. doubtful
 - d. little
4. The meaning of **catalyst** (line 18) is
 - a. chemical
 - b. idea
 - c. spur
 - d. threat
5. **Succumb** (line 25) most nearly means
 - a. yield
 - b. cater
 - c. reply
 - d. bend