

## 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. adieu

(ə dü'; a dyü')

(*int.*) "Farewell!"; (*n.*) a farewell

As my friends boarded the airplane, I waved and shouted,

"\_\_\_\_\_! Have a safe trip."

When the hour grew late, the last of the dinner guests made their \_\_\_\_\_ to their gracious hosts.

SYNONYMS: (*int.*) "So long"; (*n.*) good-bye

ANTONYMS: (*int.*) "Hello"; (*n.*) greeting

### 2. advent

(ad' vent)

(*n.*) an arrival; a coming into place or view

The \_\_\_\_\_ of spring is particularly welcome after a long, harsh winter.

SYNONYM: approach

ANTONYMS: departure, going away, exodus

### 3. apex

(ā' peks)

(*n.*) the highest point, tip

If you want to reach the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Washington Monument, you can take the stairs or an elevator.

SYNONYMS: peak, summit, acme, crowning point

ANTONYMS: bottom, nadir

### 4. assimilate

(ə sim' ə lāt)

(*v.*) to absorb fully or make one's own; to adopt as one's own; to adapt fully

A well-read person \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of a wide range of subjects.

SYNONYMS: digest, incorporate, blend in

### 5. bogus

(bō' gəs)

(*adj.*) false, counterfeit

Cashiers receive special training so that they will be able to identify \_\_\_\_\_ currency.

SYNONYMS: phony, fake, spurious

ANTONYMS: genuine, authentic

### 6. exorbitant

(eg zôr' bæ tənt)

(*adj.*) unreasonably high; excessive

Management rejected the union's demands for higher wages and better benefits as \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: extreme, inordinate, overpriced

ANTONYMS: inexpensive, affordable, reasonable

**7. interim**

(in' tər əm)

(n.) the time between; (adj.) temporary, coming between two points in time

In the \_\_\_\_\_ between landing and takeoff, the ground crew cleaned and refueled the plane.

The team played well under an \_\_\_\_\_ coach for the final three months of the season.

SYNONYMS: (n.) interval, interlude; (adj.) provisional, stopgap

**8. inundate**

(in' ən dāt)

(v.) to flood, overflow; to overwhelm by numbers or size

Torrential rains and high tides \_\_\_\_\_ the streets of the picturesque seaside community.

SYNONYMS: submerge, deluge, swamp

**9. malign**

(mə līn')

(v.) to speak evil of, slander; (adj.) evil

In every office, there are gossips who are only too willing to

\_\_\_\_\_ their coworkers.

Iago reveals his \_\_\_\_\_ motives to the audience in a series of soliloquies.

SYNONYMS: (v.) defame, vilify, badmouth; (adj.) wicked

ANTONYMS: (v.) praise, commend; (adj.) kind, benevolent

**10. meander**

(mē ən' dər)

(v.) to wander about, wind about; (n.) a sharp turn or twist

When I travel, I like to \_\_\_\_\_ through unfamiliar towns and cities.

Lombard Street in San Francisco is famous for its many

\_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (v.) ramble, roam, zigzag, twist

**11. metropolis**

(mə trəp' ə ləs)

(n.) a large city; the chief city of an area

Archaeologists have learned much about the Mayans from the ruins of the \_\_\_\_\_ Palenque.

SYNONYM: large urban center

ANTONYMS: hamlet, village

**12. momentous**

(mō men' təs)

(adj.) very important

A \_\_\_\_\_ decision by the Supreme Court in 1954 declared public school segregation unconstitutional.

SYNONYMS: consequential, weighty, portentous

ANTONYMS: inconsequential, trivial, slight, unimportant

**13. obstreperous**

(əb strep' ə r əs)

(adj.) noisy; unruly, disorderly

Our teacher will not tolerate \_\_\_\_\_ behavior in the classroom.

SYNONYMS: wild, rowdy, uncontrolled, riotous

ANTONYMS: quiet, well-behaved, docile

**14. pensive**  
(pen' siv)

(*adj.*) thoughtful; melancholy

We admired the skill with which the artist captured the child's \_\_\_\_\_ expression.

SYNONYMS: dreamy, reflective, contemplative, wistful

**15. perilous**  
(per' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) dangerous

Episodes of old-time movie serials usually ended with the hero or heroine in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances.

SYNONYMS: risky, chancy, hazardous, unsafe

ANTONYMS: safe, secure, harmless

**16. shoddy**  
(shād' ē)

(*adj.*) of poor quality; characterized by inferior workmanship

That designer watch I bought from a street vendor turned out to be a \_\_\_\_\_ knockoff.

SYNONYMS: flimsy, cheap, tacky, imitative

ANTONYMS: well-made, solid, durable, superior

**17. sprightly**  
(sprīt' lē)

(*adj.*) lively, full of life; spicy, flavorful

Though Grandmother is well into her eighties, she is still as \_\_\_\_\_ as a teenager.

SYNONYMS: frisky, peppy, spirited, animated, buoyant

ANTONYMS: sullen, spiritless, dull, morose, sluggish

**18. surly**  
(sər' lē)

(*adj.*) angry and bad-tempered; rude

Passengers stranded in an airport because their flight is canceled may become quite \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: gruff, sullen, cranky, grouchy, hostile

ANTONYMS: polite, gracious, civil, friendly, genial

**19. tirade**  
(tī' rād)

(*n.*) a long, angry speech, usually very critical

The dictator's televised \_\_\_\_\_ against his opponents lasted for four hours.

SYNONYMS: harangue, diatribe, tongue-lashing

**20. vagrant**  
(vā' grənt)

(*n.*) an idle wanderer, tramp; (*adj.*) wandering aimlessly

During the Great Depression, many people lost everything and were forced to live as \_\_\_\_\_.

Advertisers continually vie with one another to capture the \_\_\_\_\_ attention of fickle consumers.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) drifter, vagabond, hobo, nomad

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) stay-at-home, homebody, resident

# 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. It takes many long hours of study to \_\_\_\_\_ all the technical information you need to know if you wish to become a computer programmer.
2. Is there anything more unpleasant than to go to a store and find yourself in the hands of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ salesperson?
3. The senator departed from his prepared remarks to deliver an intemperate \_\_\_\_\_ attacking the administration's foreign policy.
4. King's Highway, an old Indian trail, \_\_\_\_\_ through Brooklyn, crossing many important streets and almost retracing its path at some points.
5. My friend interrupted my \_\_\_\_\_ mood with the quip "A penny for your thoughts."
6. Baby-sitters often find that children described by their parents as well behaved become \_\_\_\_\_ brats as soon as those parents leave the house.
7. It is sad to have to bid \_\_\_\_\_ to friends we have known for many years.
8. The difficult choice between going to college and getting a job is indeed a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ momentous one for a young person.
9. The people living in the valley will have to leave their homes because the area will be \_\_\_\_\_ when a new dam is constructed across the river.
10. Shakespeare's wicked characters often assume the guise of kindness to cloak their \_\_\_\_\_ natures.
11. When the band struck up a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ tune, even the most reserved party guests began to laugh, dance, and have fun.
12. When the head of your golf club has reached the \_\_\_\_\_ of the swing, pause for a second before you begin the downward motion.
13. When vacant apartments are in short supply, landlords can often get away with charging \_\_\_\_\_ rents.
14. The food processor certainly looked impressive, but its construction was so \_\_\_\_\_ that within a few months it began to fall apart.
15. In the streets of all our great cities, you will find \_\_\_\_\_ who wander about without homes, jobs, or friends.
16. How can you criticize me for the way I behaved during the emergency when you yourself have never been in so \_\_\_\_\_ a position?
17. Many students take jobs during the \_\_\_\_\_ between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next.

18. The appearance of many a main street was transformed with the of fast-food restaurants.
19. "This great \_\_\_\_\_ has many problems," the mayor said, "but it also has much to offer both residents and visitors."
20. The notorious jewel thief evaded capture for years by **adopting** numerous clever disguises and \_\_\_\_\_ identities.



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. prepared for the **arrival** of winter \_\_\_\_\_
2. made of **flimsy** material \_\_\_\_\_
3. music that suits my **wistful** state of mind \_\_\_\_\_
4. refused to respond to my opponent's **harangue** \_\_\_\_\_
5. enjoyed the **animated** conversation \_\_\_\_\_
6. the **crowning point** of a brilliant career \_\_\_\_\_
7. **roamed** through the beautiful gardens \_\_\_\_\_
8. a **portentous** meeting of world leaders \_\_\_\_\_
9. **deluged** the company with phone calls \_\_\_\_\_
10. foreign words **incorporated** into English \_\_\_\_\_
11. provides **drifters** with hot meals and shelter \_\_\_\_\_
12. tabloids that **slander** the rich and famous \_\_\_\_\_
13. representatives of the **provisional** government \_\_\_\_\_
14. received a fond **farewell** from my coworkers \_\_\_\_\_
15. a group of **rowdy** fans \_\_\_\_\_



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. treats strangers in a **friendly** manner \_\_\_\_\_
17. arrived home after a **safe** journey \_\_\_\_\_
18. willing to pay **reasonable** fees \_\_\_\_\_
19. purchased **authentic** Roman coins \_\_\_\_\_
20. spent their vacation in a **village** \_\_\_\_\_

## Choosing the Right Word

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

1. I feel that a symphony orchestra is just as important to a (**vagrant, metropolis**) as a big department store or a major-league sports team.
2. Churchill once said that if a nation tries to avoid everything that is hard and (**shoddy, perilous**), it will weaken its own security.
3. I have no respect for people who are unfailingly courteous to their superiors but (**sprightly, surly**) to the employees under them.
4. Only after Lincoln's death did most people appreciate the great qualities of the man who had been so (**maligned, inundated**) in his own lifetime.
5. The bylaws state that any member who speaks in a(n) (**obstreperous, perilous**) manner is to be quieted by the sergeant at arms.
6. His talk (**maligned, meandered**) aimlessly through memories of his youth, descriptions of his children, and criticisms of the administration.
7. I suffered a substantial financial loss and an even greater loss of faith in human nature when I tried to cash his (**obstreperous, bogus**) check.
8. I know that you're eager to have that pretty dress for the junior prom, but don't you think the price is a little (**perilous, exorbitant**)?
9. We can all agree that Elizabethan drama reached its (**apex, metropolis**) in the matchless plays of Shakespeare.
10. One of the glories of America has been its ability to (**assimilate, inundate**) immigrants from every part of the globe.
11. I don't know which is worse—your failure to keep your promise to me or your (**shoddy, momentous**) excuse for lying about it.
12. The governor appointed a member of the state assembly to serve as a(n) (**bogus, interim**) senator until a new election can be held.
13. When the new recruits refused to budge from their foxholes, the enraged sergeant let loose with a(n) (**apex, tirade**) of insults and abuse.
14. My mother's recipe for lemon meringue pie is a (**pensive, sprightly**) blend of tartness and sweetness.
15. I lay there quietly, looking at the clouds and allowing (**vagrant, surly**) thoughts to pass through my mind.
16. Was any event in American history more (**momentous, exorbitant**) than the decision of the Continental Congress in 1776 to break away from Great Britain?
17. The (**tirade, advent**) of e-mail has revolutionized the way in which people communicate with one another.
18. You have reached the stage of life where you must expect to say (**interim, adieu**) to childhood and take on the responsibilities of a young adult.
19. It was amazing to see how that quiet, (**pensive, exorbitant**) teenager changed into a tough, hard-driving leader.
20. When we asked for suggestions on how to improve our school's athletic program, we were (**assimilated, inundated**) by "bright ideas" from all sides.

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.

## Celebrating Lady Liberty

(Line)

The Statue of Liberty, which stands in New York City Harbor, was a gift from France to America. It was designed by the sculptor Auguste Bartholdi and the engineer Gustave Eiffel. Since 1886, Lady Liberty has been an inspirational sight to countless immigrants after their **perilous** ocean journey.

In 1980, a French engineer, Jacques Moutard, was cleaning a copper statue of similar construction in Paris. Noting the smaller statue's poor condition, Moutard

wondered if the much larger Liberty was in a similar state. An inspection revealed that it was. Extensive renovations were begun, to be completed in time for the centennial celebration of the statue's dedication, held in 1986.

First, an elaborate scaffold was erected around the statue. The copper skin was then carefully cleaned, and the rusted iron ribs of the frame were replaced with stainless steel ones. The viewing area, located in the crown just above Liberty's noble, **pensive** face, was rebuilt. Supports for her upraised arm were strengthened, and finally, a new torch covered with gold leaf was installed. Renovations were complete by late 1985, and the scaffold was taken down early in 1986.

The **momentous** celebration took place on July 4, 1986. A parade of magnificent tall sailing vessels from around the world entered the harbor of the great **metropolis** and sailed up the Hudson River. That night, a spectacular fireworks

Fireworks and tall ships celebrate Lady Liberty's first hundred years.

display lit up the sky, delighting the throngs of people who had **inundated** the southern tip of Manhattan—all in honor of the newly renovated statue. She is indeed a powerful and lasting symbol of the American ideals of liberty and democracy.

1. The meaning of **perilous** (line 4) is
  - a. arduous
  - b. joyous
  - c. cramped
  - d. hazardous

2. **Pensive** (line 17) most nearly means
  - a. reflective
  - b. smiling
  - c. stern
  - d. comely

4. The meaning of **metropolis** (line 25) is
  - a. town
  - b. region
  - c. city
  - d. state

5. **Inundated** (line 27) most nearly means
  - a. flooded
  - b. entered
  - c. surrounded
  - d. visited

3. The meaning of **momentous** (line 22) is best defined as
  - a. important
  - b. costly