

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. auxiliary

(ôg zil' yə rē)

(adj.) giving assistance or support; (n.) a helper, aid

If the main motor fails, the instructions say to turn on the _____ motor.

Someone second in command is an _____ to the person in charge.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) additional, back-up; (n.) reserve, accessory

ANTONYMS: (adj.) main, primary, principal

2. candid

(kan' did)

(adj.) frank, sincere; impartial; unposed

It is safe to be _____ about our faults with friends and loved ones.

SYNONYMS: forthright, plainspoken, unbiased

ANTONYMS: insincere, evasive, misleading, artful

3. cubicle

(kyü' bæ kəl)

(n.) a small room or compartment

The tiniest _____ is usually assigned to the newest employee.

SYNONYMS: enclosure, hole-in-the-wall

ANTONYMS: vast hall, auditorium

4. drudgery

(drəj' ə rē)

(n.) work that is hard and tiresome

Trade unions lobby to relieve the endless _____ of factory workers.

SYNONYMS: toil, labor, grind

ANTONYMS: play, frolic, amusement, recreation, fun

5. envoy

(en' voi; än' voi)

(n.) a representative or messenger (as of a government)

On more than one occasion, a former President has been asked to act as a special _____ to the United Nations.

SYNONYMS: agent, ambassador, emissary, minister

6. escalate

(es' kə lāt)

(v.) to elevate; to increase in intensity

A small dispute can _____ into a major conflict unless the opposing parties sit down and talk.

SYNONYMS: climb, raise, ascend, mount

ANTONYMS: decrease, lessen, descend, defuse

7. expedient
(ek spē' dē ənt)

(*n.*) a means to an end; (*adj.*) advantageous, useful

As an _____, we chose to use a rock as a makeshift hammer.

An opportunist is someone who is always ready to do whatever is most _____.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) contrivance, device; (*adj.*) serviceable

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) inconvenient, untimely, disadvantageous

8. feign
(fān)

(*v.*) to pretend

Children sometimes _____ illness to avoid going to school.

SYNONYMS: fake, sham, affect, simulate

9. flair
(flār)

(*n.*) a natural quality, talent, or skill; a distinctive style

An opera singer needs a _____ for the dramatic as well as a good voice.

SYNONYMS: aptitude, bent, knack, gift, style, panache

ANTONYMS: inability, incapacity

10. grievous
(grē' vəs)

(*adj.*) causing sorrow or pain; serious

Reporters should take careful notes when interviewing to avoid making _____ errors in print.

SYNONYMS: painful, heartrending, onerous, flagrant

ANTONYMS: joyful, uplifting, cheery, upbeat, comforting

11. heterogeneous
(het ə rə jē' nē əs)

(*adj.*) composed of different kinds, diverse

Most college admissions officers actively seek a student body that is both talented and _____.

SYNONYMS: miscellaneous, mixed, variegated

ANTONYMS: uniform, homogeneous, of a piece

12. horde
(hōrd)

(*n.*) a vast number (as of people); a throng

When the doors opened, a _____ of shoppers headed towards the sales racks.

SYNONYMS: crowd, mass, multitude, host, swarm

ANTONYMS: few, handful

13. impel
(im pel')

(*v.*) to force, drive forward

Hunger often _____ people to leave their homes in search of food.

SYNONYMS: urge, push, spur, propel, incite

ANTONYMS: discourage, check, restrain, curb

14. incredulous
(in krej' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) disbelieving, skeptical

When the testimony of a witness contradicts the evidence, you can expect _____ stares from the jury.

SYNONYMS: dubious, mistrustful, doubting
ANTONYMS: believing, trustful, gullible

15. inscribe
(in skrīb')

(*v.*) to write or engrave; to enter a name on a list

The young man asked the jeweler to _____ the locket with his fiancée's name.

SYNONYMS: imprint, enroll, enlist
ANTONYMS: erase, rub out, delete, efface, obliterate

16. monologue
(män' ə ləg)

(*n.*) a speech by one actor; a long talk by one person

By means of a _____, a playwright shares a character's private thoughts with the audience.

SYNONYMS: soliloquy, recitation
ANTONYMS: dialogue, conversation, colloquy

17. prognosis
(präg nō' səs)

(*n.*) a forecast of the probable course and outcome of a disease or situation

Doctors are particularly happy to deliver a _____ of a speedy recovery.

SYNONYMS: prediction, projection

18. rasping
(ras' pin)

(*adj.*) with a harsh, grating sound; (*n.*) a harsh sound

Chronic bronchitis can lead to a _____ cough that is difficult to cure.

The _____ of metal scraping against metal sets my teeth on edge.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) scratchy, scraping, abrasive, gravelly
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) sonorous, smooth, satiny, silky, mellow

19. repugnant
(rē pəg' nənt)

(*adj.*) offensive, disagreeable, distasteful

Despite their _____ lack of cleanliness, pigs are endearing to many people.

SYNONYMS: hateful, odious, revolting, repulsive
ANTONYMS: pleasing, attractive, tempting, wholesome

20. scuttle
(skət' əl)

(*v.*) to sink a ship by cutting holes in it; to get rid of something in a decisive way; to run hastily, scurry; (*n.*) a pail

Pirates would not wish to _____ a captured galleon before looting its cargo.

Years ago, it was possible to buy a _____ of coal at the corner grocery store.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) abandon, discard, scrap, ditch, dump
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) keep afloat, salvage, rescue, preserve

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. The New York City Marathon begins with a(n) _____ of runners swarming across the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.
2. In many cities, groups of private citizens have volunteered to serve as _____ police to help combat crime.
3. It is a(n) _____ population that accounts for the wide variety of cultures found in some neighborhoods.
4. While some people relish Limburger cheese, others find its strong odor truly _____.
5. It is all very well to be _____, but there are times when you should keep certain thoughts and opinions to yourself.
6. In times of rapid inflation, prices of goods _____ at a dizzying rate.
7. An unwilling pupil is apt to look upon hours of practice at the piano as so much boredom and _____.
8. A(n) _____ for color and texture is an indispensable asset to an aspiring dress designer.
9. We must have the courage and the clear-sightedness to realize that what is _____ is not always right.
10. A strong sense of fair play should _____ you to admit your mistake.
11. My rather lame excuse for failing to complete my homework was greeted with a(n) _____ snort by the teacher.
12. The names of all four members of the record-breaking relay team are _____ on the trophy awarded to our school.
13. I maintain that my _____ in the dormitory is so small that I have to walk into the hallway to change my mind or stretch my imagination.
14. I can't help but admire your ability to _____ interest when someone prattles on endlessly about nothing.
15. I hope you will listen attentively to your parent's dire _____ of the probable effect a third bowl of chili will have on your digestion.
16. In his opening _____, the talk-show host often pokes fun at political candidates and elected officials.
17. Her voice is so _____ that I find it painful to listen to her speak.

18. When Lincoln had been in the White House about a year, he suffered a(n) _____ loss in the death of his son Willie.
19. A special _____ was named by the President to negotiate a settlement in the war-torn region.
20. Hopelessly cut off from the main fleet, the captain of the vessel decided to _____ his ship rather than allow it to fall into enemy hands.



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. **spurred** by driving ambition
2. worn down by years of daily **toil**
3. **pretend** happiness at a rival's success
4. **scrap** an impractical idea
5. an **agent** of a foreign government
6. the **scratchy** tone of an old vinyl record
7. rely on the **back-up** speakers
8. an extraordinary **aptitude** for numbers
9. continue to **climb** rapidly
10. **skeptical** of stories about aliens
11. an endless **recitation** of petty complaints
12. an optimistic **forecast** for economic recovery
13. the names **engraved** on a monument
14. a **swarm** of angry mosquitoes
15. a crafty scheme or **means to an end**



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 **misleading** statement of opinion
17. directed to a **vast** hall
18. a **homogeneous** mixture of items
19. a **joyful** cry from the heart
20. an unusually **pleasing** sensation

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. I must admit now that I was hurt when the coach took me out in the last minutes of the game, but I tried to (**scuttle, feign**) indifference.
2. I don't consider it (**drudgery, rasping**) to prepare meals every day because I love good food and good cooking.
3. I work in an office compartment, travel in a midget car, and sleep in a tiny bedroom. My life seems to take place in a series of (**envoys, cubicles**)!
4. How can you say that the TV interview was spontaneous and (**heterogeneous, candid**) when it was all carefully rehearsed?
5. Instead of sending your little sister as a(n) (**envoy, horde**) to explain what went wrong, why don't you stand up and speak for yourself?
6. The building is equipped with a(n) (**repugnant, auxiliary**) generator, ready to go into service whenever the main power source is cut off.
7. Despite the doctor's gloomy (**prognosis, flair**) when I entered the hospital, I was up and about in a matter of days.
8. "The noble Brutus has told you Caesar was ambitious; if it were so, it was a (**grievous, candid**) fault."
9. Since the person I was trying to interview wouldn't let me get a word in edgewise, our conversation quickly turned into a (**prognosis, monologue**).
10. People who boast of their high moral principles are often the ones who will (**scuttle, escalate**) them most quickly to serve their own interests.
11. An army without strong leadership and firm discipline is no more than an armed (**horde, drudgery**).
12. After examining the price tag, I gingerly replaced the coat on the rack, (**incredulous, grievous**) at the preposterous sum the store was asking for it.
13. Political analysts, students of statecraft, and historians tried to determine what caused a minor border incident to (**escalate, feign**) into a full-scale war.
14. Was it patriotism, a desire to show off, or just self-interest that (**inscribed, impelled**) the foreign minister to take those terrible risks?
15. The expression of satisfaction that comes over her face when she talks of the failures of other people is highly (**expedient, repugnant**) to me.
16. As soon as I heard (**incredulous, rasping**) noises coming from the workshop, I knew that someone was using a saw or a file.
17. It's one thing to be interested in writing; it's quite another to have a (**flair, monologue**) for it.
18. Cut off from all supplies, the soldiers had to use various (**expedients, cubicles**) to keep their equipment in working order.
19. The poet Browning tells us that if we were to open his heart, we would find the word "Italy" (**inscribed, impelled**) inside it.
20. I searched in vain through the (**auxiliary, heterogeneous**) pile of odds and ends for the spare part I had inadvertently thrown away.

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.

Bee-havior

(Line)

Of the 20,000 species of bees in the world, only one makes honey. The honeybee is a social insect that lives and works with others in large groups or colonies. A typical honeybee colony is made up of one queen bee and her offspring: **hordes** of female worker bees and several hundred male drones. Their home is a hive, which contains a honeycomb. A close examination of a honeycomb shows a series of six-sided **cubicles**, or cells, that are used for storing honey and raising young bees. Generally, the cells with the young bees are in the center of the hive and the storage cells are on the periphery.

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Laying eggs is the queen bee's only function. The drones' sole responsibility is to mate with the queen—in most cases, the queen of another colony. Unlike the queen and the drones, the worker bees have **heterogeneous** functions. For example, the worker bees gather nectar, convert the nectar to honey, and feed both the young honeybees and the drones. They also keep the hive clean, build new honeycombs, and stand guard at the hive entrance to ward off predators. For the worker bees, there is no

(10)

(10

(15)

(15

(20)

Most beekeepers work in protective clothing.

relief from **drudgery**. Their labor is necessary to the success of the hive, and without them, the queen's offspring would perish.

(20

Some people raise bees commercially for their honey. Others keep bees as a hobby. Contrary to popular belief, honeybees are relatively easy to handle, and their sting is relatively harmless, if painful. Experienced beekeepers do not **scuttle** away from swarming bees. Knowing that quick movements disturb bees, they move slowly and deliberately. While most wear protective clothing, a few brave souls prefer to handle their bees with bare hands!

(25)

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1. The meaning of **hordes** (line 4) is

- a. varieties
- b. masses
- c. pairs
- d. lines

4. **Drudgery** (line 22) most nearly means

- a. tension
- b. pleas
- c. toil
- d. misfortune

(30

2. **Cubicles** (line 6) most nearly means

- a. enclosures
- b. organisms
- c. temples
- d. designs

5. The meaning of **scuttle** (line 26) is

- a. scurry
- b. shout
- c. tremble
- d. whisper

3. **Heterogeneous** (line 15) is best defined as

- a. outrageous
- b. important
- c. similar
- d. diverse