

Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.



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.

Definitions

1. adulterate (ə dəl' tə rāt)

(v.) to corrupt, make worse by the addition of something of lesser value
Hospitals take strict precautions to assure that nothing _____ the blood supply.

SYNONYMS: contaminate, pollute, sully
ANTONYMS: purify, purge, expurgate

2. ambidextrous (əm bi dek' strəs)

(adj.) able to use both hands equally well; very skillful; deceitful, hypocritical
Occasionally a teacher will come across a child who displays _____ abilities when taught to write.

SYNONYMS: versatile, facile
ANTONYMS: clumsy, all thumbs, maladroitt

3. augment (ɔg ment')

(v.) to make larger, increase
Many couples have to _____ their income in order to pay the mortgage on a new home.
SYNONYMS: enlarge, supplement, amplify
ANTONYMS: decrease, diminish

4. bereft (bi reft')

(adj., part.) deprived of; made unhappy through a loss
Individuals who live to be very old may eventually find themselves completely _____ of friends and family.

SYNONYM: bereaved
ANTONYMS: replete, well provided

5. deploy (di plɔi')

(v.) to position or arrange; to utilize; to form up
A bugle call is a signal used to _____ troops for inspection, parade, or battle.
SYNONYMS: station, organize

6. dour (daur')

(adj.) stern, unyielding, gloomy, ill-humored
Dickens's Mr. Gradgrind in the novel *Hard Times* is an example of a character with a _____ and sullen disposition.

SYNONYMS: harsh, bleak, forbidding, saturnine
ANTONYMS: cheery, inviting, genial

35. since the plan appears to be **feasible**
a. uncomplicated b. innocuous

36. an overly **indulgent** parent
a. energetic b. unconcerned

37. made some very **trenchant** comments
a. revealing b. strange

38. a truly **virulent** strain of the virus
a. unusual b. mild

39. a **dearth** of ideas
a. lack b. choice

40. a **loquacious** person
a. tight-tipped b. openhanded

41. a **suave** young man
a. clever b. boorish

42. **perpetuate** a family tradition
a. defend b. observe

43. a **meticulous** worker
a. diligent b. contented

44. a **callous** attitude
a. sensitive b. hostile

45. **quell** an armed uprising
a. report b. instigate

46. the **placid** waters of the lake
a. peaceful b. agitated

47. **venal** arrangements
a. workable b. honorable

48. **disparaged** their achievements
a. criticized b. studied

49. **quiescent** volcanoes
a. dormant b. imposing

50. **misconstrue** its meaning
a. question b. understand

d. inexpensive

d. confident

d. inane

d. deadly

d. abundance

d. narrow-minded

d. kindly

d. question

d. careless

d. distant

d. crush

d. sparkling

d. helpful

d. praised

d. small

d. enjoy



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7. fortitude

(fôr' ti tüd)

(*n.*) courage in facing difficulties

The residents of the Mississippi delta showed remarkable _____ during and after the flood that destroyed their homes and businesses.

SYNONYMS: resolve, steadfastness, mettle

ANTONYMS: fearfulness, timidity, faintheartedness

8. gape

(gāp)

(*v.*) to stare with open mouth; to open the mouth wide; to open wide

First-time visitors to Niagara Falls can be expected to _____ at the spectacular sights nature has provided for them.

SYNONYMS: gawk, ogle

9. gibe

(jīb)

(*v.*) to utter taunting words; (*n.*) an expression of scorn

The recruits rushed into battle so that no one could _____ at them for cowardice.

Voters may reject a candidate who resorts to personal _____ instead of discussing the issues.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) ridicule, mock, deride, jeer

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) compliment, praise

10. guise

(gīz)

(*n.*) an external appearance, cover, mask

The thieves gained entry to the home by presenting themselves in the _____ of police officers.

SYNONYMS: costume, semblance, pretense

11. insidious

(in sid' ē əs)

(*adj.*) intended to deceive or entrap; sly, treacherous

The investigators uncovered an _____ scheme to rob people of their life savings.

SYNONYMS: cunning, underhanded, perfidious

ANTONYMS: frank, ingenuous, aboveboard

12. intimation

(in tə mǎ' shən)

(*n.*) a hint, indirect suggestion

They were too proud to give any _____ of their financial difficulties.

SYNONYMS: clue, indication, inkling

13. opulent

(ăp' yə lənt)

(*adj.*) wealthy, luxurious; ample; grandiose

The tour guide showed us the _____ living quarters of the royal family.

SYNONYMS: rich, lavish, plentiful, abundant

ANTONYMS: poverty-stricken, wretched, destitute



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14. pliable

(plī' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) easily bent, flexible; easily influenced

Spools of _____ copper wire are standard equipment for many kinds of maintenance workers, including electricians.

SYNONYMS: supple, adaptable, resilient

ANTONYMS: rigid, inflexible, recalcitrant

15. reiterate

(rē it' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to say again, repeat

Effective speakers often _____ an important statement for emphasis.

SYNONYMS: restate, rehash, recapitulate

16. stolid

(stāl' id)

(*adj.*) not easily moved mentally or emotionally; dull, unresponsive

_____ people can generally be expected to take most things in stride.

SYNONYMS: impassive, phlegmatic

ANTONYMS: emotional, oversensitive, high-strung

17. tentative

(ten' tə tiv)

(*adj.*) experimental in nature; uncertain, hesitant

Negotiators have come up with a _____ agreement that will keep both sides at the bargaining table past the strike deadline.

SYNONYMS: provisional, inconclusive

ANTONYMS: definite, conclusive, confirmed

18. unkempt

(ən kempt')

(*adj.*) not combed; untidy; not properly maintained; unpolished, rude

According to my parents, the latest fashions make me and my friends look _____.

SYNONYMS: sloppy, disheveled, disordered, rough

ANTONYMS: well-groomed, tidy, neat, natty

19. verbatim

(vər bā' tam)

(*adj., adv.*) word for word; exactly as written or spoken

Newspapers often publish the _____ text of an important political speech.

At the swearing-in ceremony, the Chief Justice reads each line of the Oath of Office, and the new President repeats it _____.

SYNONYM: (*adj.*) exact; (*adv.*) precisely

ANTONYM: (*adj.*) paraphrased

20. warily

(wār' ə lē)

(*adv.*) cautiously, with great care

The hikers made their way _____ up the steep and rocky trail.

SYNONYMS: carefully, prudently, gingerly

ANTONYMS: recklessly, heedlessly, incautiously

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. What a tragedy that in the twilight of her life the unfortunate woman should be _____ of all her loved ones!
2. We learned that beneath his _____ exterior there was a sensitive, highly subtle, and perceptive mind.
3. Having learned to respect the power in his opponent's fists, the boxer moved _____ around the center of the ring.
4. Her unchanging facial features and controlled voice as she received the news gave no _____ of her true feelings.
5. An experienced baseball manager _____ his outfielders according to the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing batters.
6. At the risk of being boring, let me _____ my warning against careless driving.
7. To this day, historians are still debating whether or not Aaron Burr was guilty of a(n) _____ plot to break up the United States.
8. Since I need the speaker's exact words for my report, I have asked the stenographer to take down the speech _____.
9. The _____ expressions on the jurors' faces as they grimly filed back into the courtroom did not bode well for the defendant.
10. Many ballplayers can bat from either side of the plate, but they cannot throw well with each hand unless they are _____.
11. Why would someone who is usually so neat and tidy appear in public in such a(n) _____ state?
12. As the magician's assistant seemed to vanish into thin air, the entire audience _____ in amazement.
13. Perhaps I would be bored with the _____ lifestyle of a millionaire, but I'm willing to try it.
14. How can you tell whether the chopped-meat patty you ate for lunch had been _____ with artificial coloring and other foreign substances?
15. America's earliest settlers faced the hardships of life on the frontier with faith and _____.
16. The company commander called his troops together and asked for more volunteers to _____ the strength of the raiding party.
17. The twigs that were to be woven into the basket were soaked in water to make them more _____.

18. In Shakespeare's famous tragedy *Othello*, Iago comes to Othello in the _____ of a friend but proves to be a deadly enemy.

19. Why should I be the object of all those _____ just because I'm wearing a three-piece suit on campus?

20. Since his acceptance of the invitation was only _____, the hostess may be one man short at the dinner party.

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. **deprived** of the companionship of a beloved pet _____
2. the **stern** faces of the ancestral portraits _____
3. **stared** at the huge jaws of the crocodile _____
4. gave no **indication** of being nervous _____
5. **rehash** the same old theories _____
6. **station** the remaining guards at the exits _____
7. appeared in the **costume** of a cowboy _____
8. **polluted** the water with toxic chemicals _____
9. need to **increase** the computer's memory _____
10. an **underhanded** attack on my good name _____
11. the **supple** limbs of a dancer _____
12. **jeer** at the mistakes of the rookies _____
13. proceeded **carefully** in unknown waters _____
14. a group of tired and **untidy** travelers _____
15. attended a **lavish** holiday banquet _____

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 **high-strung** temperament _____
17. displayed **timidity** under fire _____
18. a **paraphrased** version of the announcement _____
19. surprisingly **maladroit** handling of the ball _____
20. a **definite** date for the party _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- Do you believe that the curriculum has been (**deployed**, **adulterated**) by the inclusion of courses on aspects of popular culture?
- Because the situation is changing so rapidly, any plans we make to deal with the emergency can be no more than (**verbatim**, **tentative**).
- What they call their "(**insidious**, **pliable**) outlook on life" seems to be simply a lack of any firm moral standards.
- Recruits who complain of the cold should try to show a little more intestinal (**fortitude**, **intimation**) in facing the elements.
- Let us not forget that the early fighters for women's rights were greeted with the (**gibes**, **guises**) of the unthinking mob.
- In this scene of wild jubilation, my (**stolid**, **tentative**) roommate continued to eat his peanut butter sandwich as though nothing had happened.
- Have you heard the joke about the (**ambidextrous**, **opulent**) loafer who was equally adept at not working with either hand?
- Though all hope of victory had faded, the remaining troops continued to resist the enemy with a (**bereft**, **dour**) tenacity.
- How annoying to hear the same silly advertising slogans (**gaped**, **reiterated**) endlessly on television!
- Because of my inexperience, I did not recognize at first his (**insidious**, **ambidextrous**) attempts to undermine our employer's confidence in me.
- The young prince, who much preferred blue jeans, had to dress in the (**stolid**, **opulent**) robes designed for the coronation.
- The ticking grew louder as the bomb squad (**warily**, **plially**) opened the package found on the grounds of the governor's residence.
- The speaker (**deployed**, **adulterated**) all the facts and figures at her command to buttress her argument.
- I must have been (**bereft**, **pliable**) of my senses when I bought that old car!
- There we were at the very edge of the cliff, with our front wheels about to plunge into a (**gaping**, **intimating**) ravine!
- I soon found out that my supposed friend had taken it upon himself to repeat (**unkempt**, **verbatim**) every word I said about Frieda's party.
- A sort of heaviness in the air and an eerie silence were the first real (**reiterations**, **intimations**) of the approaching cyclone.
- By studying the reactions of simpler life forms, researchers have greatly (**adulterated**, **augmented**) our knowledge of human behavior.
- One of the chief reasons for your dateless weekends is undoubtedly your (**opulent**, **unkempt**) appearance.
- Do you expect me to listen to a lot of tired old ideas dressed up in the (**fortitude**, **guise**) of brilliant new insights?

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Circuses

(Line)

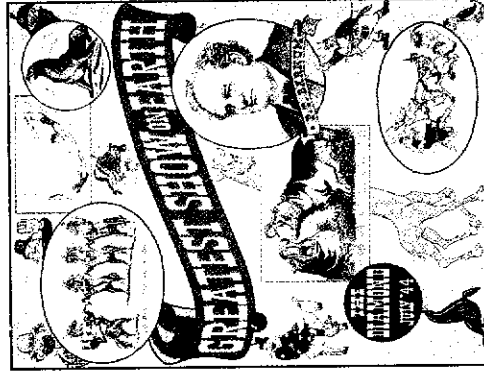
Circuses have been entertaining people for thousands of years. At the public games in ancient Rome, for example, riders stood on the bare backs of horses and raced around circular tracks while the assembled crowds **gaped** in wonder and astonishment. In fact, the word **circus** comes from the Latin word for "circle" or "oval."

Jugglers, those **ambidextrous** performers who throw many objects into the air and keep them in constant motion, have an even more ancient history. Egyptian wall paintings and early Greek sculptures show jugglers, many of them women, balancing balls and clubs in the air. In the Americas, pictures of jugglers tossing torches have been found in ancient ruins.

In the Middle Ages, performers called jesters entertained royalty and commoners alike with jokes and physical comedy. Shakespeare features court jesters in some of his plays, where they often function as more than mere clowns. In *King Lear*, for example, the Fool speaks a great deal of sense but cloaks it in the **guise** of foolishness.

The modern circus began in England in 1768, when a man named Philip Astley presented fancy horseback riding.

acrobatic acts, and clowns, accompanied by live music. Astley's circus was quickly imitated in America. A century later, showmen such as P. T. Barnum **augmented** these spectacles with a great variety of acts, including trapeze artists, tightrope walkers, trained animals, and dancers. The clowns, however, are at the heart of any circus. Awkward and **unkempt**, the clowns strut and stumble in outlandish clothes and makeup, delighting one and all with their antics. Who can keep from laughing when a dozen clowns climb out of a tiny car?



Circus poster, 1944

- The meaning of **gaped** (line 3) is
a. gasped
b. gawked
c. cheered
d. protested
- Ambidextrous** (line 5) most nearly means
a. skillful
b. ungainly
c. amazing
d. ancient
- Guise** (line 20) is best defined as
a. business
b. name
c. tradition
d. semblance
- The meaning of **augmented** (line 27) is
a. beautified
b. spoiled
c. enlarged
d. tamed
- Unkempt** (line 29) most nearly means
a. disheveled
b. silly
c. lovable
d. ugly



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Definitions

- adroit**
(ə droit')
(adj.) skillful, expert in the use of the hands or mind
Many rodeo performers are _____ at twirling a rope while on horseback.
SYNONYMS: clever, deft, dexterous, slick
ANTONYMS: clumsy, inept, all thumbs
- amicable**
(am' ə ka bəl)
(adj.) peaceable, friendly
Sometimes mediation by a neutral individual can lead to an _____ settlement of a dispute.
SYNONYMS: congenial, neighborly, cordial
ANTONYMS: hostile, antagonistic
- averse**
(ə vərs')
(adj.) having a deep-seated distaste; opposed, unwilling
You are not likely to become a marathon runner if you are _____ to strenuous exercise.
SYNONYMS: disinclined, loath
ANTONYMS: favorably disposed, eager, keen
- belligerent**
(bə lij' ə rənt)
(adj.) given to fighting, warlike; combative, aggressive; (n.) one at war, one engaged in war
I did not expect such a _____ answer to my request for directions.
After each _____ signed the peace treaty, the war was declared officially over.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) assertive, truculent, pugnacious
ANTONYMS: (adj.) peaceful, conciliatory, placid
- benevolent**
(bə nev' ə lənt)
(adj.) kindly, charitable
The newcomers had nothing but _____ feelings toward all their neighbors.
SYNONYMS: benign, well-meaning
ANTONYMS: malicious, spiteful, malevolent
- cursory**
(ker' sə rē)
(adj.) hasty, not thorough
The mayor gave a final _____ glance at the text of her speech before mounting the podium.
SYNONYMS: quick, superficial, perfunctory
ANTONYMS: thorough, painstaking, careful



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- duplicit**
(dū plis' ə tē)
(n.) treachery, deceitfulness
We found it difficult to believe that our good friend could be capable of such _____.
SYNONYMS: fraud, double-dealing, chicanery
- extol**
(ek stōl')
(v.) to praise extravagantly
Many inspiring stories and plays have been written that _____ the heroic deeds of Joan of Arc.
SYNONYMS: glorify, applaud, acclaim, hail
ANTONYMS: criticize, belittle, disparage
- feasible**
(fe' zə bəl)
(adj.) possible, able to be done
Our city needs to develop a _____ plan of action for dealing with storms and other emergencies.
SYNONYMS: workable, practicable, viable
ANTONYMS: unworkable, impractical
- grimace**
(grim' əs)
(n.) a wry face, facial distortion; (v.) to make a wry face
The _____ of the refugee in the photograph reveals the pain of homelessness.
Most people _____ at the mere sound of the dentist's drill.
SYNONYMS: (n.) pained expression, facial contortion
ANTONYMS: (n.) smile, grin; (v.) beam
- holocaust**
(hāl' ə kōst)
(n.) a large-scale destruction, especially by fire; a vast slaughter; a burnt offering
Journalists at the time were eager to interview survivors of the Chicago _____.
SYNONYMS: conflagration, devastation, annihilation
ANTONYMS: deluge, inundation
- impervious**
(im pər' vē əs)
(adj.) not affected or hurt by; admitting of no passage or entrance
It is best to store flour in a container with a plastic cover that is _____ to moisture.
SYNONYMS: impenetrable, resistant, proof against
ANTONYMS: porous, permeable, vulnerable
- impetus**
(im' pə tēs)
(n.) a moving force, impulse, stimulus
The coming of winter gave a new _____ to the appeals for food and clothing for needy families.
SYNONYMS: impulse, incentive, spur
ANTONYMS: curb, hindrance, impediment, constraint



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14. jeopardy (jep' ə dē)

(*n.*) danger

Experienced mountaineers know that a single mistake can put an entire expedition in serious _____.

SYNONYMS: risk, hazard, peril
ANTONYMS: safety, security

15. meticulous (mə tik' yə ləs)

(*adj.*) extremely careful; particular about details

If you have a full-time job outside the home, you may find it exceedingly difficult to be a _____ housekeeper.

SYNONYMS: fastidious, painstaking, fussy
ANTONYMS: careless, negligent, sloppy

16. nostalgia (nä stal' jə)

(*n.*) a longing for something past; homesickness

Looking at old scrapbooks and reading old letters can bring on a vague sense of _____ for days gone by and friends no longer near.

17. quintessence (kwın tes' əns)

(*n.*) the purest essence or form of something; the most typical example

Risking one's own life to save the lives of others is considered the _____ of selfless valor.

SYNONYMS: paragon, exemplar

18. retrogress (re trə gres')

(*v.*) to move backward; to return to an earlier condition

In the novel, the survivors of a nuclear explosion _____ into a state of barbarism and anarchy.

SYNONYMS: revert, degenerate, decline
ANTONYMS: advance, evolve, progress

19. scrutinize (skrüt' ə nız)

(*v.*) to examine closely

Lawyers are paid to _____ legal papers and explain the fine print to their clients.

SYNONYMS: inspect, pore over
ANTONYMS: skim, scan, glance at

20. tepid (tep' id)

(*adj.*) lukewarm; unenthusiastic, marked by an absence of interest
A cup of _____ tea will not warm you up on a chilly morning.

SYNONYMS: insipid, halfhearted, wishy-washy
ANTONYMS: heated, excited, enthusiastic

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. Our physical education instructor _____ the virtues of regular exercise.
2. For centuries, Switzerland has avoided becoming a(n) _____ in the conflicts that have scarred the rest of Europe.
3. When I realized how bad the brakes of the old car were, I feared that our lives were in _____.
4. What good is a plastic raincoat that is _____ to water if it also prevents any body heat from escaping?
5. As the old soldier watched the parade, he was suddenly overcome with _____ for the youthful years he spent in the army.
6. King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table were the _____ of chivalry.
7. A triple reverse looks mighty impressive on the chalkboard, but I doubt that the play will prove _____ on the football field.
8. A(n) _____ examination of my luggage was enough to show me that someone had been tampering with it.
9. An expert from the museum _____ the painting, looking for telltale signs that would prove it to be genuine or expose it as a forgery.
10. If you are _____ to hard study and intensive reading, how do you expect to get through law school?
11. If, as you claim, you really like raw oysters, why do you make such an eloquent _____ every time you swallow one?
12. My teacher counseled me to keep up my studies, or my performance in class might once again _____ into mediocrity.
13. When I heard you speaking French so fluently, my determination to master that language received a fresh _____.
14. Because I was looking forward to a hot bath, I was disappointed at the feeble stream of _____ water that flowed into the tub.
15. The accountant's records—neat, accurate, and complete in every respect—show that she is a most _____ worker.
16. Although he shows no particular talent as a worker, he is exceptionally _____ at finding excuses for not doing his job.
17. Regarding Native Americans as "bloodthirsty savages," Europeans were rarely able to maintain _____ relations with them.

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. News of famine in various parts of the world has given added (**nostalgia**, **impetus**) to the drive to increase food production.
2. On the morning of the picnic, the sky was gray and overcast, but suddenly the sun came out and smiled on us (**benevolently**, **adroitly**).
3. Because I was not even born when the Beatles were at the height of their popularity, their albums do not fill me with (**duplicity**, **nostalgia**).
4. The lawyer's (**adroit**, **beligerent**) questioning slowly but surely revealed the weaknesses in his opponent's case.
5. Anyone who is (**averse**, **cursor**) to having a girls' hockey team in our school doesn't know what's been happening in recent years.
6. When I saw my sister land in a tree on her first parachute jump, my interest in learning to skydive became decidedly (**tepid**, **adroit**).
7. In the Sherlock Holmes stories, we read of the evil Professor Moriarty, whose (**duplicit**, **quintessence**) was almost a match for Holmes's genius.
8. Do you think you are being fair in passing judgment on my poem after such a (**cursor**, **benevolent**) reading?
9. The nightmare that continues to haunt all thoughtful people is a nuclear (**holocaust**, **jeopardy**) in which our civilization might be destroyed.
10. Though it may appear rather ordinary to the casual reader, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is to me the (**impetus**, **quintessence**) of eloquence.
11. I knew you would be (**impervious**, **meticulous**) in caring for my plants, but I did not expect you to water them with a medicine dropper!
12. Carelessness in even minor details may (**extol**, **jeopardize**) the success of a major theatrical production.
13. His parents tried to encourage an interest in literature, music, and art, but he seemed (**amicable**, **impervious**) to such influences.
14. Some civil engineers believe that someday it may be (**feasible**, **averse**) to derive a large part of our energy directly from the sun.
15. It was rude of you to (**retrogress**, **grinace**) so obviously when the speaker mispronounced words and made grammatical errors.
16. (**Extolling**, **Scrutinizing**) other people's achievements is fine, but it is no substitute for doing something remarkable of your own.
17. Though the peace talks began with an exchange of lofty sentiments, they soon (**retrogressed**, **grimaced**) into petty squabbling and backbiting.
18. It made me very uncomfortable to see the suspicion with which the wary customs officer (**scrutinized**, **extolled**) my passport.
19. Providing a powerful defense force for our nation does not mean that we are taking a (**beligerent**, **meticulous**) attitude toward any other nation.
20. After shouting at each other rather angrily, the participants in the roundtable discussion calmed down and parted (**feasibly**, **amicably**).

18. No one doubted the _____ intentions of the program for community improvement, but it was ruined by mismanagement.
19. We must not forget the millions of people who were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Nazis in the _____ of World War II.
20. Only when we learned that the embezzler had tried to cast suspicion on his innocent partner did we realize the extent of his _____.

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. another **incentive** to do a good job _____
2. a shocking case of **fraud** _____
3. rescued dozens of people from the **large fire** _____
4. described as the **paragon** of graciousness _____
5. a brief spell of **homesickness** _____
6. staged a **painstaking** re-creation of a famous battle _____
7. respond with a **pugnacious** gesture _____
8. not **practicable** during the winter months _____
9. **revert** to a pattern of self-destructive behavior _____
10. in **danger** of losing your reputation for honesty _____
11. made a **quick** estimate of the crowd's size _____
12. **resistant** to the usual methods of treatment _____
13. a **halfhearted** response to the appeal for donations _____
14. a tendency to **glorify** the talents of our friends _____
15. a remarkably **congenial** group of people _____

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. **skimmed** the article for the main ideas _____
17. a **smile** in the face of danger _____
18. was **favorably disposed** to borrowing money _____
19. a single **clumsy** stroke of the painter's brush _____
20. had a **malevolent** influence on the society _____

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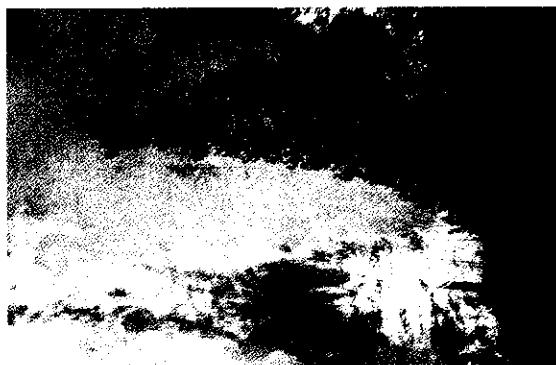
Vocabulary in Context

Fire Fight

There was literally a **holocaust** in the western United States in the summer of 1988. Major fires destroyed all plant life in eight areas in and around Yellowstone National Park. In the park itself, one million acres were consumed by wildfire. What caused this disaster? Can such a calamity be prevented from happening again? A spark of lightning or human carelessness might have provided the original **impetus** for the fires. But the combination of drought conditions and a long-standing buildup of leaf litter and decaying wood on the floor of the forest fed and sustained the flames. Even the very latest and most sophisticated fire-fighting techniques were ineffective against the blaze.

Periodic droughts cannot be prevented, and debris accumulates on the forest floor naturally. Occasional small fires are part of the natural cycle and help clear the forest floor and reduce the risk of larger fires. However, the fire-management policies of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Parks Service emphasized aggressive fire-fighting efforts, which included quenching these small, naturally occurring fires. This seemingly **benevolent** policy of fire fighting was responsible for saving many acres of private property and parkland.

In the wake of the 1988 fires, however, many scientists challenged this policy of fire prevention. They asked Congress to **scrutinize** its impact. Did it put millions of acres of forest in **jeopardy** in the long run? The scientists ignited a political firestorm. Not surprisingly, many politicians and members of the public were **averse** to changing a policy that had saved so much valuable land. It will no doubt take years for this dispute to be settled.



Pine trees ablaze in Yellowstone

1. The meaning of **holocaust** (line 1) is
 - a. heat wave
 - b. accident
 - c. debate
 - d. conflagration
2. **Impetus** (line 6) most nearly means
 - a. spur
 - b. calamity
 - c. action
 - d. story
3. **Benevolent** (line 21) is best defined as
 - a. spiteful
 - b. benign
 - c. effective
 - d. outdated
4. The meaning of **scrutinize** (line 26) is
 - a. condemn
 - b. avoid
 - c. welcome
 - d. examine
5. **Jeopardy** (line 28) most nearly means
 - a. reserve
 - b. darkness
 - c. peril
 - d. limbo
6. **Averse** (line 30) is best defined as
 - a. loath
 - b. open
 - c. resigned
 - d. committed

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. adversary (ad' ver ser ē)

(n.) an enemy, opponent

A best friend off the tennis court can also be a fierce _____ on it.

SYNONYMS: antagonist, rival, foe

ANTONYMS: friend, ally, supporter, confederate

2. alienate (ā' lē ə nāt)

(v) to turn away; to make indifferent or hostile; to transfer, convey
Gossiping and backbiting are bad habits that are bound to _____ friends.

SYNONYMS: separate, drive apart, estrange

ANTONYMS: befriend, attract, captivate, reconcile

3. artifice (är' tə fis)

(n.) a skillful or ingenious device; a clever trick; a clever skill; trickery

Even the most renowned art experts were completely taken in by the forger's _____.

SYNONYMS: ruse, stratagem, contrivance

4. coerce (kō ərs')

(v) to compel, force

Dictators try to _____ their subjects into obedience by threatening them or their families with punishment.

SYNONYMS: pressure, bully, intimidate, constrain

ANTONYMS: persuade, cajole

5. craven (krä' vən)

(adj.) cowardly; (n.) a coward

Those who urged Great Britain to make peace with Hitler were criticized for their _____ attitude.

It is a mistake to assume that everyone who refuses to go

to war is a _____ who lacks patriotism.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) fearful, fainthearted, pusillanimous

ANTONYMS: (adj.) brave, courageous, valiant

6. culinary (kyū' lə ner ē)

(adj.) of or related to cooking or the kitchen

Cooking shows on television have helped many people to master the secrets of the _____ arts.



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. delete
(di lèt')

(v.) to erase, wipe out, cut out
Crime labs can determine whether an attempt has been made to _____ material from
audiotapes.

SYNONYMS: remove, cancel, expunge
ANTONYMS: insert, add, retain, include

8. demise
(di mîz')

(n.) a death, especially of a person in a lofty position
Traditionally, the tolling of church bells has announced the _____ of a monarch.

SYNONYMS: de cease, passing away
ANTONYMS: birth, beginning, commencement

9. exhilarate
(eg zil' a rât)

(v.) to enliven, cheer, give spirit or liveliness to
The first landing on the moon, in the summer of 1969, _____ the nation.

SYNONYMS: stimulate, excite, gladden
ANTONYMS: discourage, dispirit, dishearten, inhibit

10. fallow
(fal' ô)

(adj.) plowed but not seeded; inactive; reddish-yellow; (n.) land left unseeded; (v.) to plow but not seed
After a month without a date, I decided that my social life was definitely in a _____ period.

In the drought-stricken region, there were millions of acres of _____.

Farmers often _____ a third of their fields each year to restore the chemical balance of the soil.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) unproductive, inert, dormant
ANTONYMS: (adj.) productive, fertile, prolific

11. harass
(hə ras')

(v.) to disturb, worry; to trouble by repeated attacks
The judge repeatedly cautioned the prosecuting attorney not to _____ the witness.

SYNONYMS: annoy, pester, bedevil, beleaguer

12. inclement
(in klem' ənt)

(adj.) stormy, harsh; severe in attitude or action
During an _____ New England winter, heavy snowfalls may bring highway traffic to a standstill.
SYNONYMS: blustery, tempestuous, implacable
ANTONYMS: mild, gentle, balmy, tranquil

13. muse
(myüz)

(v.) to think about in a dreamy way, ponder
Philosophers have always _____ on the meaning of life.
SYNONYMS: meditate, contemplate, daydream



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. negligible
(neg' lə jə bəl)

(adj.) so unimportant that it can be disregarded
After taxes are deducted, a small raise in salary may result in a _____ increase in take-home pay.

SYNONYMS: trivial, inconsequential, insignificant
ANTONYMS: significant, crucial, momentous

15. perpetuate
(pə pech' ü ät)

(v.) to make permanent or long lasting
In most cultures, people try to _____ the customs of their ancestors.

SYNONYMS: continue, preserve, prolong indefinitely
ANTONYMS: discontinue, abolish, abandon

16. precedent
(pres' ə dent)

(n.) an example that may serve as a basis for imitation or later action
We hope that students at other schools in our city will follow our _____ in volunteer work and charitable contributions.

SYNONYMS: guide, tradition, model

17. punitive
(pyü' nə tiv)

(adj.) inflicting or aiming at punishment
The general led a _____ expedition against the rebel forces.

SYNONYMS: penalizing, retaliatory

18. redress
(rē dres')

(v.) to set right, remedy; (n.) relief from wrong or injury
An apology can go a long way to _____ the hurt feelings caused by an insensitive comment or a thoughtless act.

The accident victims will seek _____ for the injuries they suffered in the train crash.

SYNONYMS: (v.) rectify, correct, mitigate

19. sojourn
(sō' jərn)

(n.) a temporary stay; (v.) to stay for a time
No matter how short your _____ in Paris, you must take time to go to the Louvre.

Many American graduates _____ abroad before they begin working full-time at home.

SYNONYMS: (n.) visit, stopover, brief stay

20. urbane
(ər bān')

(adj.) refined in manner or style, suave
An _____ host puts guests at ease by appearing totally confident and unruffled no matter what happens.

SYNONYM: elegant
ANTONYMS: crude, uncouth, boorish

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.

- The deserted buildings and the land lying _____ hinted at the troubles the farmers in the area were experiencing.
- His charmingly _____ manner and keen wit made him a much sought-after guest at social gatherings.
- The full extent of my _____ skill is preparing scrambled eggs on toast.
- Since both cars had virtually come to a halt by the time their bumpers met, the damage was _____.
- Magicians rely on sleight of hand and other forms of _____ to deceive their unsuspecting audiences.
- As I lay under the old apple tree, I began to _____ on the strange twists of fate that had led to the present situation.
- Their bad manners and insufferable conceit _____ even those who were most inclined to judge them favorably.
- The coach emphasized that the way to stop our opponents' passing game was to _____ their receivers and blitz their quarterback.
- I advise you to _____ from your statement all the words that people are likely to find personally offensive.
- The coach took me off the starting team as a(n) _____ measure for missing two days of practice.
- When planning our trip to the Southwest, we made sure to set aside two days for a(n) _____ at the Grand Canyon.
- At first we watched the game with relatively little emotion, but we became so _____ by our team's strong comeback that we began to cheer loudly.
- If we continue to elect unworthy people to public office, we will simply _____ the evils that we have tried so hard to correct.
- Their _____ behavior at the first sign of danger was a disgrace to the uniform they wore.
- When the snowstorm lasted into a second day, we listened attentively to the radio to find out if our school was among those closed because of the _____ weather.
- The _____ of an administration in the United States is never a crisis because a newly elected administration is waiting to take over.
- When citizens feel that something is wrong, they have a right under the First Amendment to ask their government for a(n) _____ of grievances.

- In 1858, Abraham Lincoln held a series of debates with Stephen Douglas, his _____ in the contest for U.S. Senator from Illinois.
- When Grandfather stubbornly refused to eat his vegetables, he set a(n) _____ that was immediately followed by the children.
- There are far more subtle ways of _____ a person into doing what you want than twisting his or her arm.

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.**

- pestered** by flies and mosquitoes _____
- a **retaliatory** campaign against a political rival _____
- a relaxing **stopover** on a tropical island _____
- meditated** on the possibility of a raise _____
- an attempt to **rectify** past mistakes _____
- intimidated** into making a deal _____
- a graduate of a **cooking** school in Rome _____
- a common **ruse** used to fool unwary customers _____
- a dangerous **rival** who will stop at nothing _____
- became a **model** for future generations _____
- continued** the search for a cure _____
- a speech that **excited** the crowd _____
- removed** offensive language from the text _____
- a **fearful** follower of those in power _____
- driven apart** by a misunderstanding _____

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.**

- a generally **tranquil** climate _____
- a very **crude** performance _____
- the **beginning** of an era of prosperity _____
- significant** gains in reading scores _____
- a writer's **productive** years _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- We need a supervisor who can maintain good discipline in the shop without (**harassing, exhilarating**) the workers.
- We must reject the (**craven, fallow**) advice of those who feel we can solve social problems by abandoning our democratic freedoms.
- Only when the attempt to get the British government to (**redress, delete**) injustices proved unsuccessful did the American colonists resort to arms.
- Since we are making (**negligible, craven**) progress in our fight against pollution, the time has come for us to adopt completely new methods.
- It is all very well to (**muse, perpetuate**) on what might have been, but it is far better to take action to make good things happen.
- The highlight of my trip to Europe came when I (**sojourned, redressed**) in the birthplace of my ancestors.
- I admit that we did some foolish things after the game, but you must remember how (**mused, exhilarated**) we were by the victory.
- After a long (**urbane, fallow**) period during which she scarcely touched her brushes, the painter suddenly produced a series of major canvases.
- The coach ran the risk of (**exhilarating, alienating**) influential graduates of the school when she suspended a star player who had broken training.
- When he blocked my jump shot, took the rebound, drove down the court, and scored, I realized that I was facing a worthy (**artifice, adversary**).
- I want to know by whose authority my name was (**deleted, coerced**) from the list of students eligible to take the scholarship examinations.
- And now I want you all to try my (**inclement, culinary**) masterpiece—a salami soufflé, garnished with sour cream.
- If we do not take steps now to clear their names, we will be (**perpetuating, redressing**) an injustice that has already lasted far too long.
- When Washington refused to serve a third term as President, he set a(n) (**artifice, precedent**) that was to last for 150 years.
- May I remind you that the (**punitive, urbane**) action we are authorized to take does not include physical force of any kind.
- Our city government needs basic reforms; clever little (**sojourns, artifices**) will not solve our problems.
- Our history shows how the (**demise, adversary**) of one political party provides an opportunity for the formation of a new one.
- Do you really expect me to believe that your friends (**coerced, alienated**) you into cutting class to go to the movies?
- Because of the severe sentences she often handed down, she gained the reputation of being an extremely (**inclement, negligible**) judge.
- The critics unanimously praised the actor for the (**urbane, punitive**) charm with which he played the well-bred English gentleman.

Vocabulary in Context

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.

The First Great American Statesman

Benjamin Franklin was the first great American diplomat. His historic **sojourns** in England and France changed the destiny of the thirteen American colonies.

Franklin went to England in 1757 as a representative of the Pennsylvania legislature. The British owners of the colony were proposing to exempt themselves from any taxes imposed by the colonial legislature, and it was Franklin's mission to **redress** this injustice. In the first of many diplomatic triumphs, Franklin was able to persuade Parliament to adopt a more just taxation scheme for Pennsylvania. Franklin stayed in England for almost twenty years.

Throughout the 1760s, tensions mounted between the American colonies and Great Britain. Franklin was slow at first to embrace outright rebellion. He preferred to persuade rather than **coerce**. He even offered to pay the British out of his own pocket for the tea destroyed by the colonists in the Boston Tea Party if Great Britain would repeal its unjust tea tax. When Britain refused, Franklin realized that the time for diplomacy had passed. He returned to Philadelphia in 1775 to help shape the new American nation.

In 1776, Congress sent Franklin to France to seek support against the British. Britain and France were historic **adversaries**. Franklin was an immediate hit with the French people. Both aristocrats and commoners admired his wit, tact, and shrewdness. Despite his simple dress and manners, he was accepted in the most **urbane** Parisian circles. Making the most of his personal popularity, Franklin secured the alliance in February 1778. When the war ended, Franklin helped draft the Treaty of Paris, which set the terms for an uneasy peace with Great Britain.



Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

(Line)

(5)

(10)

(15)

(20)

(25)

1. The meaning of **sojourns** (line 1) is

- a. speeches
- b. palaces
- c. stays
- d. protests

2. **Redress** (line 7) most nearly means

- a. correct
- b. endorse
- c. discuss
- d. study

3. **Coerce** (line 16) is best defined as

- a. coax
- b. pressure
- c. confuse
- d. surrender

4. The meaning of **adversaries** (line 23) is

- a. monarchies
- b. allies
- c. neighbors
- d. antagonists

5. **Urbane** (line 26) most nearly means

- a. elegant
- b. boorish
- c. radical
- d. fussy



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

UNIT 4

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.

Definitions

1. affiliated (ə fil' ē āt əd)

(adj., part.) associated, connected

Being _____ with a well-known law firm is often the first step on the way to a successful political career.

SYNONYMS: attached, related, joined
ANTONYMS: dissociated, unconnected

2. ascertain (ə sər tain')

(v.) to find out

We need to _____ what it will cost to remodel our kitchen.

SYNONYMS: discover, determine, establish

3. attainment (ə tain' mən t)

(n.) an accomplishment, the act of achieving

In addition to his abilities as a leader, Abraham Lincoln was a man of high literary _____.

SYNONYMS: achievement, fulfillment
ANTONYMS: failure, defeat, frustration

4. bequeath (bi kwēth')

(v.) to give or pass on as an inheritance

Few people will make enough money in their lifetimes to be in a position to _____ a fortune to their heirs.

SYNONYMS: transmit, bestow, hand down

5. cogent (kō' jint)

(adj.) forceful, convincing; relevant, to the point

A group of legal scholars held a press conference to present a _____ plea for reform of the state's prison system.

SYNONYMS: persuasive, compelling
ANTONYMS: weak, unconvincing, ineffective, irrelevant

6. converge (kən verj')

(v.) to move toward one point, approach nearer together

The television coverage resumed as soon as the delegates _____ on the hall to hear the keynote speaker's address.

SYNONYMS: meet, unite, intersect, merge
ANTONYMS: diverge, separate

3. When he issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln _____ four million enslaved human beings.

4. Basing his decision on the _____ that some child in the school was carrying an infectious disease, the doctor ordered that all the students be inoculated.

5. Please _____ me to offer my congratulations on your well-deserved promotion.

6. The trapped animal _____ a frantic squeal.

7. The doctors had begun to give up hope when the disease suddenly went into _____ and the patient began to recover.

8. The secretary of state went to the arms conference being held in a foreign capital as the official _____ of the United States.

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

1. Within the eye of a hurricane, there is a (**premise, remission**) of the storm's high winds and torrential rain.

2. Slaves (**manumitted, emitted**) in ancient Rome could become full citizens of the republic.

3. Her job is to supervise the ordering of all the supplies sold at the school (**commissary, emissary**).

4. The javelin, discus, and shot are (**remissions, missiles**) hurled by athletes in a decathlon.

5. The chemicals used in a photographer's darkroom (**emit, permit**) very strong fumes.

6. All too often in life and art, the (**emissary, missile**) is unjustly punished for being the bearer of bad news.

7. Over the centuries, some scholars have adhered to the (**commissary, premise**) that Shakespeare did not write the plays that bear his name.

8. If only time (**permitted, manumitted**), I would explain my brilliant theory to you in great detail.



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. disperse
(di spərs')

(*v.*) to scatter, spread far and wide

When a scuffle broke out, the commissioner ordered the police to _____ the crowd.

SYNONYMS: break up, dispel

ANTONYMS: collect, congregate, assemble, muster

8. esteem
(es tēm')

(*v.*) to regard highly; (*n.*) a highly favorable opinion or judgment

In traditional Native American cultures, young people are taught to _____ their ancestors.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should be someone whom all parties hold in high _____

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) respect, admire, honor, revere

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) disdain, scorn; (*n.*) contempt

9. expunge
(ik spən')

(*v.*) to erase, obliterate, destroy

The judge ordered the remarks _____ from the court record.

SYNONYMS: delete, efface, annihilate

ANTONYMS: insert, mark, imprint, impress

10. finite
(fī' nīt)

(*adj.*) having limits; lasting for a limited time
There are only a _____ number of possible answers to a multiple-choice question.

SYNONYMS: bounded, measurable

ANTONYMS: unlimited, immeasurable, everlasting, eternal

11. invulnerable
(in val' nər ə bəl)

(*adj.*) not able to be wounded or hurt; shielded against attack
Medieval lords did everything possible to make their castles _____ fortresses.

SYNONYMS: impregnable, impervious, immune

ANTONYMS: exposed, unprotected, defenseless

12. malevolent
(mə lev' ə lənt)

(*adj.*) spiteful, showing ill will

While pretending to be a loyal friend, Iago told Othello _____ lies.

SYNONYMS: malicious, wicked, sinister, malignant

ANTONYMS: kind, benevolent, compassionate

13. nonchalant
(nān shə lənt')

(*adj.*) cool and confident, unconcerned

The elegantly dressed couple strolled down the boulevard with a _____ air.

SYNONYMS: composed, unruffled, indifferent, blasé

ANTONYMS: perturbed, agitated, disconcerted, abashed



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. omniscient
(ām nish' ənt)

(*adj.*) knowing everything; having unlimited awareness or understanding

Scientists today have so much specialized knowledge that they sometimes seem _____.

SYNONYMS: wise, all-knowing

ANTONYMS: ignorant, unknowing

15. panacea
(pan ə sē' ə)

(*n.*) a remedy for all ills; cure-all; an answer to all problems

You are mistaken if you think that getting more money will be a _____ for all your troubles.

SYNONYMS: universal cure, easy solution

16. scrupulous
(skrü' pyə ləs)

(*adj.*) exact, careful, attending thoroughly to details; having high moral standards, principled

Scientists are trained to record their observations with _____ accuracy.

SYNONYMS: painstaking, meticulous, conscientious

ANTONYMS: careless, negligent, remiss, dishonest

17. skulk
(skəl)

(*v.*) to move about stealthily; to lie in hiding

The burglar _____ in the alley looking for a way to get into the darkened jewelry store without attracting the attention of anyone who might be nearby.

SYNONYMS: lurk, slink, prowl

18. supercilious
(sü pər sil' ē əs)

(*adj.*) proud and contemptuous; showing scorn because of a feeling of superiority

Their _____ attitude toward their servants was extremely offensive.

SYNONYMS: snobbish, patronizing, overbearing

ANTONYMS: humble, meek, deferential, servile

19. uncanny
(ən kan' ē)

(*adj.*) strange, mysterious, weird, beyond explanation

It is highly unusual for a beginner to display such an _____ skill at playing bridge.

SYNONYMS: eerie, inexplicable, spooky

20. venial
(vē' nə əl)

(*adj.*) easily excused; pardonable

Someone whose offense is deemed by the judge to be _____ may be ordered to perform community service.

SYNONYMS: excusable, forgivable

ANTONYMS: inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable

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. Though I wanted to "let bygones be bygones," I found that I could not wholly _____ the bitter memory of their behavior from my mind.
2. If only parents could _____ their hard-won practical wisdom and experience to their children!
3. Our representative offered one simple but _____ argument against the proposal: It would raise the cost of living.
4. In the opening scene of the horror film, a shadowy figure dressed in black _____ through the graveyard in the moonlight.
5. Your ability to guess what I am thinking about at any given time is nothing short of _____.
6. As we stood on the railway tracks looking off into the distance, the rails seemed to _____ and meet at some far-off point.
7. Before making our final plans, we should _____ exactly how much money we will have for expenses.
8. When the candidate admitted openly that he had been mistaken in some of his earlier policies, we _____ him more highly than ever.
9. Because our natural resources are _____ and by no means inexhaustible, we must learn to conserve them.
10. When I saw the pain he caused others and the pleasure he took in doing so, I realized he was a truly _____ person.
11. So long as we remained indoors, we were _____ to the arctic blasts that swept down on our snowbound cabin.
12. In a situation that would have left me all but helpless with embarrassment, he remained cool and _____.
13. Isn't it remarkable how quickly a throng of sunbathers will pick up their belongings and _____ when a few drops of rain fall?
14. The screening committee investigated not only the candidates themselves but also the organizations with which they were _____.
15. Is there anyone in the world as _____ as a senior who attends a mere sophomore class dance?
16. The more knowledge and wisdom people acquire, the more keenly they become aware that no one is _____.
17. Only by paying _____ attention to innumerable details were the investigators able to piece together the cause of the accident.

18. Antibiotics were once considered wonder drugs, but we now know that they are not _____ for all our physical ailments.
19. I knew the dean would accept my apology when she characterized my behavior as thoughtless but _____.
20. Her election to Congress was the _____ of a lifelong ambition.

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. no **remedy** for the problems of aging _____
2. an **eerie** tale of the supernatural _____
3. must **determine** who is responsible _____
4. **lurked** in the shadows of the old warehouse _____
5. **handed down** their knowledge to their apprentices _____
6. the **fulfillment** of a cherished dream _____
7. a **measurable** amount of rainfall _____
8. an **indifferent** shrug of the shoulders _____
9. **impervious** to normal wear and tear _____
10. a **painstaking** restoration of the original _____
11. the **excusable** flaws in a youthful work _____
12. does not claim to be **all-knowing** _____
13. a cold front that **dispelled** the heat and humidity _____
14. needed to **delete** out-of-date files _____
15. made a **compelling** case for government aid _____

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. shows **contempt** for the achievements of others _____
17. opinions that **diverge** along party lines _____
18. a statement that revealed their **kind** intentions _____
19. behaves in a **deferential** manner _____
20. **unconnected** with a national organization _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- When I found myself flushed with anger, I realized that I was not so (**scrupulous**, **invulnerable**) to their bitter sarcasm as I had thought I was!
- Lincoln said, "If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and (**esteem**, **attainment**)."
- Vast wealth, elegant clothes, and a (**finite**, **supercilious**) manner may make a snob, but they do not of themselves make a person a true gentleman or lady.
- I found your criticism of my conduct unpleasant, but I had to admit that your remarks were (**venial**, **cogent**).
- She is the kind of person who has many (**panaceas**, **attainments**) but seems unable to put them to any practical use.
- Her bright, optimistic manner did much to (**ascertain**, **disperse**) the atmosphere of gloom that had settled over the meeting.
- Nothing he may (**expunge**, **bequeath**) to the next generation can be more precious than the memory of his long life of honorable public service.
- Though the couple have spent years studying African history, they do not claim to be (**omniscient**, **cogent**) in that field.
- Scientists have concluded that a sudden catastrophe (**expunged**, **converged**) dinosaurs from the face of the earth.
- Instead of blaming a (**malevolent**, **invulnerable**) fate for your failures, why not look for the causes within yourself?
- The newspaper revealed that the city's chief building inspector was (**omniscient**, **affiliated**) with a large construction company.
- Is it true that some dogs have a(n) (**uncanny**, **nonchalant**) sense of the approach of death?
- As a member of the grand jury, it is your duty to be (**supercilious**, **scrupulous**) in weighing every bit of evidence.
- The critic recognized the book's faults but dismissed them as (**venial**, **uncanny**) in view of the author's overall achievement.
- At first, the two candidates were in disagreement on every issue; but as the campaign went on, their opinions seemed to (**disperse**, **converge**).
- When I splattered paint on my art teacher, I tried to appear (**nonchalant**, **malevolent**) but succeeded only in looking horrified.
- The reform candidate vowed to root out the corruption that (**bequeathed**, **skulked**) through the corridors of City Hall.
- Instead of making an informed guess, why not (**ascertain**, **esteem**) exactly how many students are going on the trip to Washington?
- Though the journey seemed interminable, I knew that it was (**cogent**, **finite**) and that I would soon be home.
- There are so many different factors involved in an energy crisis that no single measure can be expected to serve as a(n) (**panacea**, **attainment**).

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Gone Forever?

One of the great **attainments** of modern medicine was the eradication of smallpox in the late 1970s. The last naturally occurring case of the disease was found in Somalia in Africa in 1977. The disease was declared eliminated by the World Health Organization (WHO), an agency of the United Nations, in May 1980.

Smallpox is a highly contagious viral disease that is spread when invisible droplets from the nose and mouth of an infected person are **dispersed** through the air. About twenty percent of its victims die, and many who survive it are blinded or permanently scarred.

(10) How was smallpox finally **expunged**?

The first vaccine was discovered in 1796 by Edward Jenner, a British physician. However, it was not until the twentieth century that a truly effective vaccine was distributed on a wide scale. Large-scale vaccination eliminated smallpox in the United States and Europe in the 1940s, but no population was **invulnerable** as long as the disease was still active elsewhere.

(20) In 1967, hundreds of doctors, nurses, and scientists **affiliated** with WHO teamed up with health workers in Africa, Asia, and South America to mount a coordinated assault on smallpox. The teams traveled from village to village, isolating the victims and vaccinating those who came in contact with them. The effort paid off.

Mass vaccination seemed to be a true

(30) **panacea**. The medical community was so confident smallpox was gone forever that all vaccinations were halted in the 1980s. Stockpiles of the vaccine were destroyed. Very little vaccine is now available, and immunity is on the decline. Could the deadly smallpox cycle begin again?



Laboratory technician at work

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The meaning of attainments (line 1) is | 4. The meaning of invulnerable (line 17) is |
| a. intentions | a. insecure |
| b. mysteries | b. infected |
| c. achievements | c. endangered |
| d. failures | d. immune |
| 2. Dispersed (line 6) most nearly means | 5. Affiliated (line 20) most nearly means |
| a. scattered | a. friendly |
| b. observed | b. happy |
| c. planted | c. associated |
| d. collected | d. angry |
| 3. Expunged (line 10) is best defined as | 6. Panacea (line 28) is best defined as |
| a. spread | a. luxury |
| b. erased | b. cure-all |
| c. exported | c. disaster |
| d. cured | d. story |

Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.



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. altruistic**
(al trū is' tik)

(adj.) unselfish, concerned with the welfare of others
Most people support _____ programs to help the less fortunate of this world.
SYNONYM: selfless
ANTONYMS: selfish, self-centered

- 2. assent**
(ə sent')

(v.) to express agreement; (n.) agreement
Workers hope that the threat of a long strike will force management to _____ to their demands.

Romeo and Juliet knew they would never gain their feuding families' _____ to marry.

SYNONYMS: (v.) concur, consent, accede
ANTONYMS: (v.) disagree, differ, dissent

- 3. benefactor**
(ben' ə fak tar)

(n.) one who does good to others
Without the help of many _____ most charities would be unable to carry out their work.
SYNONYMS: patron, humanitarian
ANTONYMS: misanthrope, malefactor

- 4. chivalrous**
(shiv' əl ras)

(adj.) marked by honor, courtesy, and courage; knightly
In today's busy world, where people are often heedless of others, a _____ act is admired by all.

SYNONYMS: gallant, civil, valiant
ANTONYMS: crude, uncouth, churlish, loutish

- 5. clemency**
(klem' ən sē)

(n.) mercy, humaneness; mildness, moderateness
Many judges are willing to show _____ to first offenders who express regret for their wrongdoing.
SYNONYMS: leniency, forbearance, gentleness
ANTONYMS: harshness, severity, cruelty, inflexibility

- 6. dearth**
(dærth)

(n.) a lack, scarcity, inadequate supply; a famine
An employer may complain of a _____ of qualified applicants for available jobs.
SYNONYMS: insufficiency, want, paucity
ANTONYMS: surplus, oversupply, glut, abundance



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

- 7. diffident**
(dif' ə dēnt)

(adj.) shy, lacking self-confidence; modest, reserved
Many a _____ suitor has lost his beloved to a bold rival.
SYNONYMS: timid, bashful, unassertive, withdrawn
ANTONYMS: bold, brash, audacious, self-confident, jaunty

- 8. discrepancy**
(dis krep' ən sē)

(n.) a difference; a lack of agreement
_____ in the testimony of witnesses to a crime can have a decisive impact on the outcome of a trial.
SYNONYMS: disagreement, divergence, inconsistency
ANTONYMS: agreement, convergence, consistency

- 9. embark**
(em bārk')

(v.) to go aboard; to make a start; to invest
Columbus spent years raising money before he was able to _____ on his perilous ocean voyage in search of a passage to the Far East.
SYNONYMS: commence, launch, begin, board

- 10. facile**
(fas' əl)

(adj.) easily done or attained; superficial; ready, fluent; easily shown but not sincerely felt
Writing is a _____ process for some authors but a laborious task for others.

SYNONYMS: effortless, assured, poised, specious
ANTONYMS: labored, awkward, halting

- 11. indomitable**
(in dām' ə təl)

(adj.) unconquerable, refusing to yield
All who hear of the remarkable deeds of Harriet Tubman admire her _____ courage in the face of grave danger.

SYNONYMS: unbeatable, invincible, unyielding
ANTONYMS: surrendering, submissive, yielding

- 12. infallible**
(in fal' ə bəl)

(adj.) free from error; absolutely dependable
Some critics seem convinced that their expert knowledge makes them _____ judges of the quality of an artist's work.
SYNONYMS: unerring, certain
ANTONYM: imperfect

- 13. plod**
(pləd)

(v.) to walk heavily or slowly; to work slowly
After the blizzard, we had to _____ through deep snowdrifts to reach the nearest stores.
SYNONYMS: lumber, trudge
ANTONYMS: scamper, skip, prance



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. pungent
(pən' jənt)

(adj.) causing a sharp sensation; stinging, biting

The kitchen of the French restaurant was filled with the _____ aroma of onion soup.

SYNONYMS: sharp, spicy, piquant, caustic, racy
ANTONYMS: bland, unappetizing, colorless, insipid

15. remiss
(rē mis')

(adj.) neglectful in performance of one's duty, careless

When I am _____ in doing daily chores, I have to spend a big part of the weekend catching up.

SYNONYMS: negligent, lax, slack
ANTONYMS: scrupulous, dutiful, punctilious

16. repose
(rē pōz')

(v) to rest; lie; place; (n.) relaxation, peace of mind, calmness

The mortal remains of thousands who fell in America's wars _____ in Arlington National Cemetery.

After spending all day with others, you may wish for a period of _____ before dinner.

SYNONYMS: (v) sleep; (n.) tranquility, respite
ANTONYMS: (n.) exertion, wakefulness, tumult, bustle, ado

17. temerity
(tə mer' ə tē)

(n.) rashness, boldness

Few of his subordinates had the _____ to answer the general back.

SYNONYMS: recklessness, foolhardiness, effrontery
ANTONYMS: timidity, fearfulness, diffidence, humility

18. truculent
(trak' yə lənt)

(adj.) fierce and cruel; aggressive; deadly, destructive; scathingly harsh

People with _____ dispositions can make life miserable for those who have to work with them.
SYNONYMS: brutal, savage, belligerent, vitriolic
ANTONYMS: gentle, mild, meek, unthreatening

19. unfeigned
(ən fānd')

(adj.) sincere, real, without pretense

The novelist won high praise for her ability to portray the _____ emotions of children.

SYNONYMS: genuine, heartfelt
ANTONYMS: insincere, simulated, phony

20. virulent
(vir' yə lənt)

(adj.) extremely poisonous; full of malice; spiteful

The First Amendment protects the right of free speech for everyone, even those with _____ views that are repugnant to most people.

SYNONYMS: venomous, noxious, baneful, hateful
ANTONYMS: innocuous, harmless, benign

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.

- Doctors attributed the epidemic to the rampant spread of a particularly _____ strain of influenza virus.
- My parents will not _____ to my going to the dance unless I promise faithfully to be home no later than 1:00 A.M.
- As a school cafeteria guard, I would be _____ in my duties if I failed to report a serious disturbance.
- We were all impressed by your _____ use of unusual words and expressions that you had learned only a few hours before.
- Humor should be clever and amusing but never so _____ that it hurts the feelings of other people.
- The pathetic refugees _____ along the dusty road, hoping to reach the Red Cross camp before nightfall.
- I rarely join in the discussions, not because I lack information and ideas, but rather because I am _____.
- History tells us that many men and women regarded as failures in their own lifetimes were really major _____ of humanity.
- The principal claimed that there were major _____ between what actually happened in the school and the way the incident was reported on TV.
- What good are _____ principles if no real attempt is made to help people by putting those principles into practice?
- I did not realize how beautiful the twins were until they fell asleep and I saw their faces in complete _____.
- In view of the many able people in public life today, I do not agree that we are suffering from a(n) _____ of capable leaders.
- Do you really think it is _____ to give your seat to a pretty young woman when an aged lady is standing nearby?
- Refusing to admit defeat even when things looked completely hopeless, our _____ football team drove eighty-five yards in the last few minutes to score the winning touchdown.
- He is not merely unpleasant but actually dangerous whenever he gets into one of his _____ moods.
- The rash young lieutenant had the _____ to disregard the express orders of the commanding officer.
- Emphasizing the youth of the convicted man, the defense attorney pleaded for _____.

Choosing the Right Word

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

- American Presidents often point to one of their schoolteachers as the (**discrepancy**, **benefactor**) who helped shape their character and ideas.
- We soon learned that behind his retiring and (**truculent**, **diffident**) manner, there was a keen mind and a strong will.
- In a grim old joke, a man found guilty of murdering his parents appeals for (**clemency**, **assent**) because he is an orphan.
- It would be (**Indomitable**, **remiss**) of me, as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, not to express appreciation for the help of our faculty advisor.
- After boasting to me of your family's great wealth, how could you have the (**clemency**, **temerity**) to ask me for a loan?
- As a state legislator, you should not give your (**assent**, **chivalry**) to any measure unless you truly believe in it.
- We breathed a sigh of relief when we saw the supposedly missing set of keys (**plodding**, **reposing**) in the desk drawer.
- I admired the speaker's (**remiss**, **facile**) flow of words, but they failed to convince me that she had practical ideas to help solve our problems.
- By 1781, George Washington's green recruits of a few years earlier had been forged into an (**infallible**, **indomitable**) army.
- With all the deductions for taxes, there is a substantial (**dearth**, **discrepancy**) between my official salary and my weekly paycheck.
- Planet Earth is a sort of spaceship on which billions of human beings have (**reposed**, **embarked**) on a lifelong voyage.
- Great political leaders know how to appeal to people not only through self-interest but also through their sense of (**temerity**, **altruism**).
- She is a popular young woman because people realize that her interest in them is sympathetic and (**remiss**, **unfeigned**).
- The critic's (**pungent**, **facile**) comments during the TV panel show were not only amusing but also very much to the point.
- You will surely win more support for your view by quiet discussion than by (**truculent**, **chivalrous**) attacks on your opponents.
- He is not too well informed on most matters; but when it comes to big-league baseball, he is all but (**indomitable**, **infallible**).
- I had no inkling of your deep-seated aversion to pop music until I overheard your (**altruistic**, **virulent**) comments about it.
- In the violent world of today's pro football, good sportsmanship and (**pungent**, **chivalrous**) behavior still have a place.
- The lawyer (**plodded**, **embarked**) through hundreds of pages of the trial record, hoping to find some basis for an appeal.
- How do you account for the (**clemency**, **dearth**) of old-fashioned family doctors willing to make house calls?

- Your _____ joy when it was announced that I had won the scholarship meant more to me than all the polite congratulations I received.
- As soon as the last passenger had _____, the captain ordered the ship to get under way.
- The custom of putting erasers on pencils is one way of recognizing the fact that no one is _____.

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.

- trudged** slowly up the hill _____
- launch** a political campaign _____
- faced with a **paucity** of volunteers _____
- found **respite** in the shade of a tree _____
- refused to **accede** to the will of the majority _____
- selfless** dedication to finding a cure _____
- a **caustic** response to a hostile question _____
- a **brutal** band of hardened criminals _____
- made allowances for the **recklessness** of youth _____
- the spreading of **venomous** rumors _____
- an **unerring** sense of what the public wants _____
- recognized the **difference** between fact and fiction _____
- negligent** in paying their taxes _____
- the patient's **unconquerable** desire to live _____
- moved with **effortless** grace _____

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.

- made a **crude** apology for his behavior _____
- harshness** in judging others _____
- an obviously **insincere** expression of concern _____
- wrote a **bold** letter to the person in charge _____
- discovered the identity of the **malefactor** _____

Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.



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.

Vocabulary in Context

The Legend Lives On

The original stories of King Arthur and his **chivalrous** Knights of the Round Table were the imaginative creations of 12th- and 13th-century French writers of verse romances. The first great collection of Arthurian material in English, Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*, was based on these sources. Written about 1470, Malory's work, like its sources, contains a **dearth** of historical fact but a wealth of romantic detail. (10)

Although Arthur may have been based on an actual 6th-century Celtic chieftain, the figure of legend is far more than a military hero. In the course of the many works written about him, King Arthur has become a symbol of idealism, loyalty, and **indomitable** courage. (15)

Like many legendary heroes, Arthur is born in exceptional circumstances and grows up in obscurity. The son of King Uther Pendragon, the infant Arthur is placed in the care of the magician Merlin. Because Merlin is paid for his services, he is not entirely **altruistic** in the earlier versions of the story. His motives remain unclear in later versions as well. For example, he keeps young Arthur ignorant of his royal origins yet makes sure the child is raised as a nobleman. (20)

When King Uther dies without a clear successor, confusion reigns until a magic sword embedded in a stone is discovered. An inscription on the stone declares that only the rightful heir shall be able to remove the sword. (25)

One after another, the nobles try unsuccessfully to remove the sword. Arthur, knowing nothing of his parentage, has the **temerity** to step up to the stone and grasp the sword. To the amazement of all, he removes it easily. The nobles then recognize him as king. Arthur is mortally wounded in a battle with his enemy Mordred. The dying king is carried off into the mist on a barge to the mysterious island of Avalon. But according to the legend, Arthur may one day return. (30)



Tapestry portrait of King Arthur

1. The meaning of **chivalrous** (line 1) is
a. gallant c. fierce
b. gentle d. coarse

2. **Dearth** (line 5) most nearly means
a. abundance c. thread
b. scarcity d. pretense

3. **Indomitable** (line 9) is best defined as
a. reckless c. faltering
b. moral d. unyielding

4. The meaning of **altruistic** (line 15) is
a. ambitious c. harmless
b. unselfish d. evil

5. **Temerity** (line 27) most nearly means
a. strength c. boldness
b. humility d. skill

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. **accede**
(ak sēd')

(v.) to yield to; to assume an office or dignity

Management was not willing to _____
to labor's initial demands, thus increasing the likelihood of a long and bitter strike.

SYNONYMS: consent, concur, comply, assent
ANTONYMS: demur, balk at

2. **brandish**
(bran' dish)

(v.) to wave or flourish in a menacing or vigorous fashion
I _____ my umbrella repeatedly in a vain effort to hail an empty cab.

SYNONYMS: swing, shake

3. **comprise**
(kam prīz')

(v.) to include or contain; to be made up of

Classical symphonies usually _____
three or four movements of varying musical form, tempo, and character.

SYNONYMS: compose, constitute, encompass
ANTONYM: exclude

4. **deft**
(deft)

(adj.) skillful, nimble

The _____ fingers of Spanish nuns produced some of the finest, most delicate lace ever seen.

SYNONYMS: dexterous, adroit, proficient, clever, masterful
ANTONYMS: clumsy, awkward, bungling, inept

5. **destitute**
(des' tə tūt)

(adj.) deprived of the necessities of life; lacking in

Some people fled their homes so suddenly that they arrived at the refugee camp absolutely _____.

SYNONYMS: wanting, devoid, impoverished, penniless
ANTONYMS: rich, wealthy, luxurious, bountiful, full, replete

6. **explicit**
(ek splis' it)

(adj.) definite, clearly stated

The more _____ your directions are, the easier it will be for all of us to find our way to the campsite.

SYNONYMS: distinct, forthright, unambiguous, clear
ANTONYMS: vague, ambiguous, implied, implicit



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. extirpate
(ek' star pät)

(v.) to tear up by the roots; to destroy totally
We must do everything we can to _____ racism from American society.
SYNONYMS: uproot, eradicate, wipe out, excise
ANTONYMS: implant, sow, foster, nourish

8. inopportune
(in äp' er tün')

(adj.) coming at a bad time; not appropriate
Why do my relatives always seem to turn up at the most _____ time imaginable?
SYNONYMS: ill-timed, inconvenient, inappropriate, unsuitable
ANTONYMS: timely, convenient, felicitous, opportune

9. ironic
(ī rän' ik)

(adj.) suggesting an incongruity between what might be expected and what actually happens; given to irony, sarcastic
The short stories of O. Henry are famous for their _____ endings.
SYNONYMS: incongruous, satiric, sardonic, wry
ANTONYMS: straightforward, unequivocal

10. musty
(məs' tē)

(adj.) stale, moldy; out-of-date
Houses that have been closed up for a very long time often have an unpleasantly _____ smell about them.
SYNONYMS: hackneyed, antiquated
ANTONYMS: fresh, sweet-smelling, up-to-date, brand-new

11. officious
(ə fish' əs)

(adj.) meddling; excessively forward in offering services or assuming authority
The manager of the store warned the entire sales force not to be too _____ when helping customers.
SYNONYMS: meddlesome, prying, impertinent, obtrusive
ANTONYMS: reserved, diffident, timid, aloof

12. ominous
(äm' ən əs)

(adj.) unfavorable, threatening, of bad omen
The _____ sound of distant thunder warned us of the storm's approach.
SYNONYMS: unpropitious, inauspicious, portentous
ANTONYMS: propitious, auspicious, promising

13. pinnacle
(pin' ə kəl)

(n.) a high peak or point
Some pop musicians reach the _____ of their careers comparatively early in life.
SYNONYMS: apex, acme, summit, apogee
ANTONYMS: nadir, perigee, low point



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. premeditated
(prä med' ə tāt id)

(adj., part.) considered beforehand, deliberately planned
Some crimes are spontaneous acts of passion; others are quite _____.
SYNONYMS: preplanned, rehearsed, calculated, prearranged
ANTONYMS: unplanned, spontaneous, impromptu

15. rampant
(ram' pənt)

(adj.) growing without check, running wild
All kinds of odd rumors run _____ during a political campaign.
SYNONYMS: widespread, unrestrained, extravagant, prevalent
ANTONYMS: controlled, restrained

16. solace
(säl' əs)

(n.) comfort, relief; (v.) to comfort, console
Many world leaders seek _____ from the cares of state in the pages of great literature.
I could find no way to _____ my deeply troubled conscience.
SYNONYMS: (v.) soothe, reassure, cheer up
ANTONYMS: (v.) vex, aggravate, upset

17. stately
(stät' lē)

(adj.) dignified, majestic
The _____ procession slowly wound its way from the palace to the cathedral.
SYNONYMS: grand, magnificent, imposing
ANTONYMS: lowly, humble, servile, abject

18. supple
(sap' əl)

(adj.) bending easily; bending with agility; readily adaptable; servile
Have you ever read Robert Frost's famous poem about swinging on the _____ branches of a birch tree?
SYNONYMS: flexible, limber, pliable, pliant
ANTONYMS: stiff, rigid, unbending, hidebound

19. suppress
(sa pres')

(v.) to stop by force, put down
Totalitarian governments usually take strong measures to _____ free speech.
SYNONYMS: subdue, crush, stifle, squelch, quash, silence
ANTONYMS: provoke, spur, arouse, incite, instigate

20. venal
(vēn' əl)

(adj.) open to or marked by bribery or corruption
The presence of even one _____ official may jeopardize the integrity of an entire organization.
SYNONYMS: dishonest, bribable, corruptible, mercenary
ANTONYMS: honest, incorruptible, scrupulous

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.

- How can I ever forget that _____ inspector in the customs office who insisted that I empty every piece of luggage before him!
- We will never _____ to those selfish and unfair terms.
- The students couldn't _____ their groans of dismay when the teacher announced a surprise quiz.
- It is a truly sobering thought to realize that when one has reached the _____ of a mountain, there is nowhere to go but down.
- A great dancer, like a great athlete, must have a sharp sense of timing and a highly trained, responsive, and _____ body.
- Accomplished portrait painters can usually reveal a person's character with a few _____ strokes of a brush.
- I vowed that I would _____ every weed that dared to show itself in our newly seeded lawn.
- The unruly mob retreated as the line of deputies moved forward slowly, _____ their riot sticks.
- "We could not have chosen a more _____ spot for our picnic," she observed as she swept ants off the blanket.
- Who would have dreamed that the cluttered old attic, with all its darkness, dust, and _____ odor, contained such a treasure!
- The referee gave a(n) _____ warning that if either team protested her decisions, she would be forced to call a technical foul.
- Whether your act was _____ or the result of carelessness, the fact remains that you have caused great pain to someone who has always been very good to you.
- How _____ that they finally inherited all that money at a time when it could no longer help to solve their problems!
- The sudden drop in temperature and the unnatural stillness in the air were _____ signs of an unfavorable change in the weather.
- Attacking the present administration, the candidate said that crime has been _____ in the streets of our city.
- Who can forget the sight of those _____ tall ships with their lofty masts and graceful lines as they sailed past the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July?
- Unfortunately, the so-called recreational facilities _____ nothing more than a card table and a small-screen TV set.

- In the mid-1800s, "Boss" Tweed controlled New York City through a(n) _____ political machine that fed on graft and extortion.
- Airline companies often call in professional grief counselors to help _____ the families and friends of crash victims.
- Even when the economy is strong, there are always a large number of _____ families in urgent need of assistance.



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.

- the **dignified** language of the Gettysburg Address _____
- triumphantly **flourished** the latest poll results _____
- contains** bits and pieces of longer works _____
- an **Incongruous** conclusion to a promising career _____
- left the orphans totally **impoverished** _____
- at the very **summit** of the social scene _____
- the **widespread** lawlessness of the times _____
- actions that were obviously **calculated** _____
- annoyingly **meddlesome** coworkers _____
- an **inappropriate** occasion for a feast _____
- uproot** evil from our midst _____
- soothe** the troubled spirit of a child _____
- subdued** an impulse to cry _____
- the **mercenary** atmosphere of the campaign _____
- not yet ready to **consent** to the proposal _____



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.

- a **fresh**-tasting loaf of bread _____
- made **vague** references to the past _____
- a **clumsy** bid for power _____
- an extremely **stiff** fabric _____
- an **auspicious** development _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. Was Oscar Wilde being (**ironic, deft**) when he said that he could resist everything except temptation?
2. There's a world of difference between a helpful research assistant and an (**explicit, officious**) one!
3. She has the kind of (**supple, vernal**) personality that can easily adapt itself to a wide variety of needs and conditions.
4. During the darkest hours of defeat, their only (**solace, pinnacle**) was the knowledge that they had fought hard to the very end.
5. If the law is intended to limit nonessential use of gasoline and heating oil, it should state this (**explicitly, ironically**).
6. He is in for a rude awakening if he thinks that as the son of a rich family, he will simply (**accede, suppress**) to a position of wealth and power.
7. No matter how ticklish the situation, the hero of the cartoon always devised some (**deft, rampant**) maneuver to avoid capture.
8. The actress felt that she had reached the (**pinnacle, solace**) of fame when the principal of her former school asked for her autograph.
9. They tried to explain away their racial slur as a slip of the tongue, but in my opinion it was deliberate and (**premeditated, ominous**).
10. Coming at a time when I was flat broke, your suggestion that we have a bite to eat and go to the movies was highly (**officious, inopportune**).
11. Even in the concentration camps, some basic feelings of decency and humanity were not completely (**brandished, extirpated**).
12. We were prepared for a sharp scolding but not for the (**ominous, inopportune**) silence with which the principal greeted us.
13. His speech at first seemed highly dramatic and impressive, but we soon realized that he was quite (**destitute, musty**) of new ideas.
14. The way he (**brandishes, comprises**) his facts and figures reminds me of a butcher swinging a meat cleaver.
15. Someone who insists that everyone has a price believes that human beings are (**premeditated, vernal**) by nature.
16. No doubt there are some dishonest officials, but it is a gross exaggeration to say that graft and corruption are (**rampant, explicit**) in our government.
17. Eliza Doolittle was a poor flower seller, but she learned to conduct herself with the (**supple, stately**) bearing of a princess.
18. The only sure way to (**suppress, brandish**) social unrest is to make possible a decent, secure life for all the people.
19. Let's prepare a joint statement that will (**accede, comprise**) the various objections of all civic groups to the freeway plan.
20. I have no patience with (**musty, stately**) old ideas about family roles based on gender.

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Vocabulary in Context

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.

The Road to Freedom

(Line) The Underground Railroad assisted African American slaves to escape to freedom in the North and Canada. However, it was neither a railroad nor underground. Rather, it was a loose association that **comprised** both blacks and whites in the North and the South. This network secretly aided runaway slaves on their journey north.

(5) The effort began in the early 1800s and reached its **pinnacle** in the 1850s. Slaves were the absolute property of their owners, and owners had the right to use any means to recapture those who tried to

flee. The Fugitive Slave Act of

1850 made it a crime to help a

slave to escape. Runaways and

(10) their guides had to travel by night through dangerous terrain, often pursued by armed men and dogs.

One of the most famous

"conductors" on the Underground

Railroad was a runaway slave

herself. Harriet Tubman escaped

(15) in 1849. She returned to the South nineteen times to help others flee.

Having been taught about the

woods by her father when she was a child, Harriet Tubman was a **deft** guide.

Fearless and determined, she always carried a gun on her missions and was willing

to **brandish** it if a frightened runaway tried to turn back. Tubman led about 300

people, including her parents, to freedom and was never caught herself.

(25) The "stations" on the Underground Railroad were houses where fugitive slaves were given food and shelter. There they also found welcome **solace** from their lonely and dangerous journeys. One of the most famous of these safe houses was the Indiana home of a Quaker named Levi Coffin. He aided more than 3,000 men and women. Other frequently traveled routes passed through the state of Ohio, the city of Philadelphia, and the Great Lakes region into Canada. Before slavery was

(30) **extirpated** at the end of the Civil War (1861-1865), an estimated 100,000 African Americans escaped to freedom using the Underground Railroad.

Forward by Jacob Lawrence, 1967



1. The meaning of **comprised** (line 3) is

- a. hired
- b. excluded
- c. deprived
- d. included

4. The meaning of **brandish** (line 23) is

- a. fire
- b. wave
- c. surrender
- d. conceal

2. **Pinnacle** (line 5) most nearly means

- a. apex
- b. start
- c. nadir
- d. end

5. **Solace** (line 26) most nearly means

- a. ammunition
- b. advice
- c. relief
- d. rest

3. **Deft** (line 21) is best defined as

- a. clumsy
- b. skillful
- c. daring
- d. willing

6. **Extirpated** (line 31) is best defined as

- a. modified
- b. debated
- c. upheld
- d. eradicated

Unit 6 • 71



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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. **abhor**
(ab hôr')

(v.) to regard with horror or loathing; to hate deeply

A pacifist is someone who _____ violence in all its forms.

SYNONYMS: detest, despise, abominate
ANTONYMS: admire, cherish, respect, relish

2. **amend**
(ə mend')

(v.) to change in a formal way; to change for the better

If you are not doing well in a particular subject, you may want to _____ your way of studying it.

SYNONYMS: modify, improve, correct

3. **buffet**
(baf' at)

(v.) to slap or cuff; to strike repeatedly; to drive or force with blows; to force one's way with difficulty; (n.) a slap, blow

Blinding snowstorms _____ the barren landmass of Antarctica for months on end.

Few figures in history or literature are as severely tested by fortune's _____ as Job in the Old Testament.

SYNONYMS: (v.) batter, sock, thump, pummel, toss about

4. **chaos**
(kā' äs)

(n.) great confusion, disorder

A great many people lost their fortunes and even their lives in the _____ brought on by the French Revolution.

SYNONYMS: anarchy, turmoil, pandemonium
ANTONYMS: order, regularity, tranquillity

5. **commodious**
(ka mō' dē əs)

(adj.) roomy, spacious

No one would expect a tiny studio apartment to have particularly _____ closets.

SYNONYMS: comfortable, ample, capacious
ANTONYMS: cramped, claustrophobic, insufficient

6. **corrosive**
(ka rō' sīv)

(adj.) eating away gradually, acidlike; bitterly sarcastic

Sulfuric acid is one of the most _____ substances known to chemistry.

SYNONYMS: caustic, mordant, acidulous, spiteful
ANTONYMS: bland, mild, benign, amiable



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. **discern**
(di sarn')

(v.) to see clearly, recognize

It is a jury's job to _____ the truth by carefully evaluating all the evidence presented at trial.

SYNONYMS: perceive, detect, distinguish
ANTONYM: overlook

8. **extant**
(ek' stant)

(adj.) still existing; not exterminated, destroyed, or lost

The paintings of animals and human hands in Spain's Altamira caves are among the oldest _____ specimens of Stone Age art.

SYNONYMS: surviving, in existence
ANTONYMS: extinct, defunct, vanished

9. **implicate**
(im' ple kât)

(v.) to involve in; to connect with or be related to

The suspects never stood trial because there was no solid evidence to _____ them in the daring series of robberies.

SYNONYMS: incriminate, entangle
ANTONYMS: absolve, exculpate

10. **inter**
(in tar')

(v.) to bury, commit to the earth; to consign to oblivion

Jewels and other objects once _____ with Egypt's pharaohs can now be seen in numerous museums all over the world.

ANTONYMS: unearth, exhume

11. **martinet**
(mâr ta net')

(n.) a strict disciplinarian; a stickler for the rules

When it came to drilling troops, the Revolutionary War general Baron Friedrich von Steuben was something of a _____.

SYNONYMS: taskmaster, slave driver

12. **obviate**
(âb' vē ât)

(v.) to anticipate and prevent; to remove, dispose of

Vaccinations can do much to _____ the dangers of childhood illnesses.

SYNONYMS: preclude, forestall, ward off

13. **renegade**
(ren' ə gād)

(n.) one who leaves a group; a deserter, outlaw; (adj.) traitorous; unconventional, unorthodox

Many a writer has been labeled a _____ for refusing to conform to society's conventions.

_____ senators from the President's own party joined the opposition to defeat the bill.

SYNONYMS: (n.) turncoat, defector, heretic
ANTONYMS: (n.) loyalist, patriot



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. reprehensible
(rep rē hen' sə bəl)

(adj.) deserving blame or punishment

Stalin eliminated many potential rivals by accusing them of all sorts of _____ acts that they did not commit.

SYNONYMS: objectionable, blameworthy, culpable, odious
ANTONYMS: commendable, blameless, meritorious

15. somber
(sām' bər)

(adj.) dark, gloomy; depressed or melancholy in spirit

The atmosphere in the locker room of the losing team could best be described as _____.

SYNONYMS: mournful, dismal
ANTONYMS: bright, sunny, lighthearted, cheerful, jaunty

16. squalid
(skwāl' id)

(adj.) filthy, wretched, debased

Many laws prohibit the types of _____ working conditions found in sweatshops.

SYNONYMS: dingy, sordid, foul, vile, abject
ANTONYMS: neat, spruce, exalted, lofty

17. turbulent
(tər' byə lənt)

(adj.) disorderly, riotous, violent; stormy

Letters and diary entries may reveal a person's lifelong struggle to gain some control over _____ emotions.

SYNONYMS: tumultuous, unruly, agitated
ANTONYMS: calm, placid, tranquil, still

18. vociferous
(vō sif' ə rəs)

(adj.) loud and noisy; compelling attention

Relief agencies regularly make _____ appeals for aid for victims of war, terrorism, and natural disasters.

SYNONYMS: clamorous, uproarious, blustering
ANTONYMS: quiet, soft-spoken, muted, subdued

19. voluminous
(vō lū' mə nəs)

(adj.) of great size; numerous; writing or speaking at great length

The task of summarizing the _____ reports issued by government agencies may fall to members of a legislator's staff.

SYNONYMS: bulky, massive, copious, plentiful
ANTONYMS: scant, meager, brief, succinct

20. waive
(wāv)

(v.) to do without, give up voluntarily; to put off temporarily, defer

The senator agreed to _____ opposition to the proposed bill if some of its more controversial provisions were substantially modified.

SYNONYMS: decline, relinquish, forgo
ANTONYMS: claim, accept

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. A person who has been _____ about by many dreadful misfortunes will either become stronger or suffer a complete breakdown.
2. In a natural history museum, we can see physical remains of many species of animals that are no longer _____.
3. In our frantic search for the missing papers, we overturned everything in the room, leaving it in complete _____.
4. Shakespeare tells us that "the evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft _____ with their bones."
5. Let me say frankly that I _____ prejudice in anyone, even a member of my own family.
6. It is particularly _____ for citizens to fail to vote in national elections and then complain about the government.
7. We are petitioning the council to _____ its procedures so that all citizens will have a chance to express their opinions.
8. The American writer Dorothy Parker was celebrated for her sharp tongue and _____ wit.
9. Are we justified in showing visitors only the most attractive and interesting sections of our cities, towns, or villages while keeping them away from the _____ neighborhoods where so many people live?
10. Getting a good education will do much to _____ the problem of finding a job that pays well.
11. Those accused of crimes are sometimes willing to _____ their accomplices in return for immunity from prosecution.
12. Who would not feel depressed on entering that _____ old courtroom, with its dim lighting and dark, massive furnishings!
13. Confident that she could present the case effectively to a judge, the lawyer advised her client to _____ his right to a jury trial.
14. A person who changes from one political party to another on the basis of honest conviction should not be regarded as a(n) _____.
15. The trunk of the car was so _____ that it held all our skiing equipment as well as our other luggage.
16. The records of the school board meeting on the proposed bond issue are so _____ that it would take me a week to read them.
17. One of the signs of maturity is the ability to _____ the difference between things that are secondary and things that are truly important.

Choosing the Right Word

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

- At lunchtime, the room rang with the sound of (**reprehensible**, **vociferous**) debates between the fans of rival teams.
- The Tech team was offside on the play; but since we had thrown them for an eight-yard loss, we (**waived**, **abhorred**) the five-yard penalty.
- Which great poet said that his head was "bloody but unbowed" under the (**buffeting**, **chaos**) of fate?
- Even in his old age, Thomas Jefferson kept up a (**voluminous**, **turbulent**) correspondence with important people in America and abroad.
- The Founding Fathers set up a method of (**amending**, **obviating**) the Constitution that is neither too easy nor too difficult to use.
- We can expect (**chaos**, **martinets**) in the years ahead if we do not develop a tough, realistic conservation policy.
- If you examine the evidence carefully, you will soon (**discern**, **amend**) the contradictions in the witness's story.
- I don't know which was more (**somber**, **reprehensible**)—making improper use of the money or lying about it later.
- The time has come for us to (**implicate**, **inter**) our ancient disputes and go forward as a truly united people.
- In 1940, Winston Churchill conveyed to the British people the (**somber**, **voluminous**) truth that they were fighting for their national existence.
- A compromise agreement reached in the judge's chambers would clearly (**discern**, **obviate**) the need for a long, costly lawsuit.
- When he accused me of playing fast and loose with the rules, I lost my temper and called him an officious (**renegade**, **martinet**).
- I'm not so sure that I want to rent a bungalow so (**commodious**, **squalid**) that I'll have room for guests every weekend.
- I wouldn't say that I (**inter**, **abhor**) housework, but I must admit that I avoid it whenever I can.
- Instead of trying to help the people who had elected him, he became involved in a (**squalid**, **extant**) little quarrel about handing out jobs.
- It is hard for us to realize that the great men who led our revolution were considered (**renegades**, **buffets**) by the British king.
- History gives us many examples of how the (**vociferous**, **corrosive**) effects of religious hatred can weaken the entire social structure.
- Didn't it occur to them that by signing the letter "Sophomores of Central High," they would (**implicate**, **waive**) the entire class in the protest?
- Some people prefer the (**discernment**, **turbulence**) of life in a big city to the more placid atmosphere of a small town.
- The custom by which a young man buys his bride through a payment to her father is still (**commodious**, **extant**) in some parts of the world.

- We Americans are proud that each change of the national administration, far from being _____, is carried out in a peaceful and friendly manner.
- I didn't expect you to like my suggestion, but I was shocked by your bitter and _____ criticism of it.

- Although our drill instructor went by the book, he was by no means an overbearing _____.

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.

- battered** by fluctuations in the stock market _____
- a **spacious** and elegant hotel lobby _____
- detected** a change in public opinion _____
- a cold and heartless **taskmaster** _____
- willing to **modify** long-standing company policy _____
- precludes** further debate _____
- clamorous** objections to the plan _____
- condemned by all as a **turncoat** _____
- disorder** in the courtroom _____
- found in appallingly **dingy** surroundings _____
- entangled** in a web of deceit _____
- the **mournful** tolling of church bells _____
- detested** all snobbery and conceit _____
- forgo** payment for their services _____
- letters containing **spiteful** remarks _____

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.

- a prolonged period of **calm** weather _____
- exhumed** the victim's body _____
- took **brief** notes during the meeting _____
- a truly **meritorious** policy _____
- an **extinct** flightless bird _____

Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Sail On!

For over 5,000 years, wind and water have **buffeted** boats propelled by sails. The Egyptians were the first to use sails to power wooden boats. Over the centuries, European shipbuilders constructed bigger and stronger wooden ships with **voluminous** sails and increasingly intricate rigging. In the 1400s and 1500s, a type of sailing ship called a *galleon* was used both to make war and to carry cargo. As guns grew heavier and cargoes more precious, the design of warships and merchant ships diverged.

In the 1600s and 1700s, the demand for goods from the Orient became so **vociferous** in Europe that private trading companies found it highly profitable to build larger and larger merchant riggers.

By the early 1800s, trade between England and the United States was booming. There was an increasing demand for more **commodious** accommodations for passengers who wanted to cross the Atlantic. To meet these demands, American shipowners came up with something entirely new: packet service. The packets were the first ships to sail on a regular schedule regardless of weather or the size of their cargo. By catering to passenger comfort and convenience, they became immensely successful. However, the packets needed to travel very fast to meet their schedules. As a result, many of the captains drove their ships unmercifully, even in the most **turbulent** weather.

The most beautiful of the sailing ships—and the crowning glory of the age of sail—were the American *clippers*. These ships had slender hulls and many sails, and they were built for speed. They “clipped off” the miles. In their heyday in the mid-1800s, the clippers could make the trip from New York City to San Francisco, around the tip of South America, in under one hundred days.

American clipper ship in full sail

- The meaning of **buffeted** (line 1) is
a. soaked c. aided
b. pummeled d. lulled
- Voluminous** (line 4) most nearly means
a. fragile c. sturdy
b. colorful d. numerous
- Vociferous** (line 9) is best defined as
a. loud c. annoying
b. common d. limited
- The meaning of **commodious** (line 14) is
a. inexpensive c. comfortable
b. luxurious d. cramped
- Turbulent** (line 26) most nearly means
a. stormy c. calm
b. sunny d. unpredictable

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. animosity (an ə mäs' ə tē)

(n.) strong dislike; bitter hostility

The deep _____ between the Montagues and Capulets could not prevent Romeo and Juliet from falling in love.

SYNONYMS: enmity, rancor, antipathy
ANTONYMS: affection, fondness, rapport, amity

2. apathy (əp' ə the)

(n.) a lack of feeling, emotion, or interest

I was horrified when the sales force greeted my great idea for an ad campaign with total _____

SYNONYMS: indifference, disinterest, detachment
ANTONYMS: enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, concern

3. apprehensive (əp rē hen' sīv)

(adj.) fearful or anxious, especially about the future

As the hurricane approached, _____ residents all along the coast prepared for the worst.

SYNONYMS: worried, nervous, fretful, jittery
ANTONYMS: unworried, assured, confident, certain

(v.) to praise, express approval; to present as worthy of attention; to commit to the care of

The mayor _____ the young people for their volunteer work at local hospitals and soup kitchens.

SYNONYM: applaud; entrust
ANTONYMS: abhor, loathe

5. compatible (kəm pat' ə bəl)

(adj.) able to get along or work well together; capable of use with some other model or system

Eyewitness accounts of an accident rarely are totally _____

SYNONYMS: harmonious, in agreement, like-minded
ANTONYMS: mismatched, incongruous, antagonistic

6. condolence (kən dō' ləns)

(n.) an expression of sympathy

A few well-chosen words of _____ can be a great comfort to someone who has lost a loved one.

SYNONYMS: commiseration, solace, sympathy



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. consecrate
(kän' sə krät')

(*v*.) to make sacred, hallow; to set apart for a special purpose
Traditionally most religious denominations hold special ceremonies to _____ a new house of worship.

SYNONYMS: devote, dedicate, sanctify
ANTONYMS: desecrate, defile, profane, dishonor

8. decrepit
(di krep' it)

(*adj.*) old and feeble; worn-out, ruined
"I may be aging," the famous movie star replied, "but I am hardly _____."

SYNONYMS: infirm, broken-down, rickety, dilapidated
ANTONYMS: vigorous, robust, sturdy

9. deride
(de rīd')

(*v*.) to ridicule, laugh at with contempt
Most people find jokes that _____
somebody's national origin or social background extremely offensive.

SYNONYMS: mock, scorn, disparage, jeer at
ANTONYMS: praise, extol, acclaim, applaud

10. ingenuous
(in jen' yū əs)

(*adj.*) innocent, simple; frank, sincere
In his novels, Dickens has harsh words for those who take cruel advantage of _____ young people.

SYNONYMS: naive, artless, guileless, candid
ANTONYMS: artful, crafty, worldly, sophisticated

11. multifarious
(məl tə far' ē əs)

(*adj.*) having great variety; numerous and diverse
Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks reveal that he was a man of _____ interests.

SYNONYMS: varied, manifold, heterogeneous
ANTONYMS: unvaried, uniform, homogeneous

12. obsolete
(əb sə lēt')

(*adj.*) out-of-date, no longer in use
In order to remain competitive, manufacturing companies periodically replace _____ machinery.

SYNONYMS: outmoded, antiquated, passé, old hat
ANTONYMS: current, up-to-date, brand-new

13. omnivorous
(əm niv' ə rəs)

(*adj.*) eating every kind of food; eagerly taking in everything, having a wide variety of tastes
An _____ animal has a greater chance of survival than one that depends on a single food source.

SYNONYMS: all-devouring, voracious



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. parsimonious
(pär sə mō' né əs)

(*adj.*) stingy, miserly; meager, poor, small
Many people who lost money in the Great Depression later adhered to a _____ lifestyle, even during more prosperous times.

SYNONYMS: frugal, niggardly, penny-pinching, cheap
ANTONYMS: generous, openhanded

15. quandary
(kwän' drē)

(*n*.) a state of perplexity or doubt
Try as I might, I could see no way out of the ethical _____ in which I found myself.

SYNONYMS: confusion, dilemma, predicament

16. recalcitrant
(ri kal' sə trənt)

(*adj.*) stubbornly disobedient, resisting authority
A _____ individual may have great difficulty adjusting to a job that requires a good deal of teamwork.

SYNONYMS: unruly, obstinate, contrary, ornery
ANTONYMS: obedient, docile, cooperative, compliant

17. reprisal
(ri pri' zəl)

(*n*.) an injury done in return for injury
The Highland clans of Scotland engaged in cattle rustling in _____ for real or imagined injuries.
SYNONYMS: retaliation, revenge, retribution

18. revel
(rev' əl)

(*v*.) to take great pleasure in; (*n*.) a wild celebration
Some movie stars do not _____ in the attention their fans and the media pay them.

All around the world, the new millennium was ushered in with both prayers and _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v*.) relish, savor, bask in, carouse
ANTONYMS: (*v*.) abhor, loathe

19. stultify
(stəl' tə fī)

(*v*.) to make ineffective or useless, cripple; to have a dulling effect on
Oppressive heat may _____ the mind and spirit as well as the body.

SYNONYMS: smother, stifle, neutralize, negate
ANTONYMS: arouse, excite, inspire, stimulate

20. suave
(swāv)

(*adj.*) smoothly agreeable or polite; pleasing to the senses
Nick Charles, the clever detective in the *Thin Man* movies, is a _____ man-about-town.

SYNONYMS: sophisticated, urbane, polished
ANTONYMS: crude, clumsy, unpolished, oafish, loutish

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.

- It is surprising how often people with very different personalities turn out to be _____ when they get to know one another.
- It was difficult for us to believe that such a _____ and cultured gentleman was a member of a gang of international jewel thieves.
- In spite of all the elaborate safety precautions, I couldn't help feeling a little _____ as I set out for my first skydiving lesson.
- Political candidates who do nothing but _____ their opponents' character and abilities may alienate voters.
- The _____ problems that will face America's Presidents in the twenty-first century will make their job one of the most demanding in the world.
- So there I was, having accepted invitations to two different parties on the same evening. What a(n) _____ to be in!
- Simple _____ seems to be the main reason such a large percentage of those eligible to vote fail to cast ballots in any election.
- I think that the phrase "on its last legs" is an apt description of that _____ old house down the block.
- I trust you will never have the experience of trying to cross the desert with a(n) _____ mule that wants to remain where it is.
- From all his growling and snapping, you would think our beagle felt a personal _____ toward every other dog on the block.
- Although I was unable to visit my old friend's widow in person, I offered my _____ in a heartfelt letter.
- If you think of all the different kinds of food that human beings are able to consume, you will realize that we are truly a(n) _____ species.
- Struggling to overcome her _____ inclinations, she finally reached into her pocket and handed me one thin dime!
- The board of directors voted to _____ him for the skill and enthusiasm with which he had managed the charity drive.
- "Today," said the speaker, "we _____ this monument to the memory of all those who fought and died in defense of their country."
- Now that I am a senior, it is hard to believe that I was ever as innocent and _____ as the members of the new freshman class.
- Technology changes so rapidly that a particular computer may be state-of-the-art one day and _____ the next.

- If we increase our tariff rates on the goods of other countries, we can be sure that they will raise their own rates in _____.
- Throughout the hot, dusty journey, we _____ in the thought that soon we would be swimming in the cool lake.
- In totalitarian regimes, censorship and violence are often employed to suppress criticism and _____ dissent.

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.

- an **all-devouring** sense of curiosity _____
- cruel acts of **revenge** _____
- entrusted** to the care of friends _____
- caught in a hopeless **predicament** _____
- welcome expressions of **sympathy** _____
- jeered at** by the protesters _____
- surrounded by **like-minded** friends _____
- too **naive** to question others' motives _____
- rejected the author's **outmoded** theories _____
- a shocking display of **rancor** _____
- blocked by a **penny-pinching** legislature _____
- a climate of public **indifference** _____
- an old house with a **dilapidated** porch _____
- dedicated** themselves to healing the sick _____
- basked** in the approval of friends and family _____

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.

- a person with **unpolished** manners _____
- an atmosphere that **stimulates** inquiry _____
- a **homogeneous** society _____
- a thoroughly **cooperative** individual _____
- behaved in a very **confident** manner _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- Can you be so (**apprehensive**, **ingenuous**) that you don't realize she is paying us all those phony compliments to get something out of us?
- Yes, there is some (**apathy**, **animosity**) between different racial and ethnic groups, but it can be overcome by education and experience.
- He is so absorbed in himself that he has become (**parsimonious**, **suave**) in the normal expression of human sympathy and affection.
- I think we should offer congratulations rather than (**revels**, **condolences**) for the disappearance of that battered old heap you called a car.
- In this third century of our nation's life, let us (**stultify**, **consecrate**) ourselves anew to the ideals of human freedom.
- Some people are (**omnivorous**, **parsimonious**) readers, with a lively appetite for all types of fiction and nonfiction.
- Two of the chief strengths of modern American society are the variety and vitality that arise from its (**multifarious**, **obsolete**) cultures.
- Those students who have been doing their work all term need not feel (**apprehensive**, **recalcitrant**) about the final examination.
- The headwaiter was so (**suave**, **ingenuous**) and self-assured in his manner that we took him for a diplomat.
- Your unwillingness to study foreign languages is in no way (**compatible**, **omnivorous**) with your ambition to get a job in the foreign service.
- Our Constitution is more than 200 years old; but far from being (**suave**, **decrepit**), it is still a vital, dynamic, and highly practical plan of government.
- Many stand-up comedians regularly (**revel**, **deride**) popular fads and fashions.
- So we are faced with that old (**quandary**, **reprisal**)—an income that simply can't be stretched to cover the things that we simply must have.
- The address was so dull and long-winded that it seemed to (**consecrate**, **stultify**) rather than inspire the audience.
- When my friends appeared with a stack of CDs, I realized that our crash study session might become an all-day (**reprisal**, **revel**).
- I must give you the sad news that correct spelling and good grammar are not, and never will be, (**obsolete**, **decrepit**).
- If you can't (**deride**, **commend**) me for my efforts to help you, at least don't criticize me for not doing everything you want.
- Her moods seem to go from one extreme to the other—from deepest (**apathy**, **animosity**) to unlimited enthusiasm.
- The handful of (**recalcitrant**, **compatible**) students who refuse to obey study hall regulations are violating the rights of the majority.
- Although our society must punish criminals, I don't think we should do so simply as a (**reprisal**, **quandary**) for the wrongs they have committed.

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Thriving Coyotes

(Line) Most people probably associate coyotes with the American West. Indeed, these handsome and adaptable animals are native to that part of the world. However, over the past hundred years, the species has greatly enlarged its territory. It has moved steadily eastward and into areas that are more densely populated. Today the melodious howls of coyotes can be heard throughout the United States and in parts of Canada and Central America.

Why have coyotes been so successful? Their **omnivorous** eating habits certainly have helped them. They are known to eat just about anything, including insects, snakes, frogs, porcupines, grass, apples,

(10) cactus fruit, and even watermelon. Yet coyotes also prey on livestock. For this reason, some people seek to reduce their numbers or even eliminate them altogether. Ranchers in the western United States

have long felt **animosity** toward coyotes because the animals kill hundreds of thousands of sheep each

(15) year. In turn, ranchers, hunters, and government workers kill hundreds of thousands of coyotes annually. The methods used are **multifarious**, ranging from poisoning and trapping to aerial

(20) shooting.

Urban and suburban residents may also feel **apprehensive** about the presence of coyotes.

A hungry coyote may attack and kill a pet cat or dog.

(25) Yet there is also reason to **commend** coyotes. They play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature. Their preferred foods are mice, gophers, and other small rodents. Without coyotes to keep their numbers down, these rodents would do enormous damage to crops.

Can humans and coyotes be **compatible**? Whether they will be able to live in some measure of harmony remains to be seen. Meanwhile, this wily animal that (30) Native Americans call the Trickster continues to thrive.



Coyotes communicate by howling.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The meaning of omnivorous (line 7) is
a. peculiar
b. appealing
c. voracious
d. finicky | 4. The meaning of apprehensive (line 22) is
a. worried
b. certain
c. excited
d. annoyed |
| 2. Animosity (line 14) most nearly means
a. kindness
b. enmity
c. affection
d. respect | 5. Commend (line 24) most nearly means
a. loathe
b. avoid
c. praise
d. study |
| 3. Multifarious (line 18) is best defined as
a. uniform
b. effective
c. wicked
d. varied | 6. Compatible (line 28) is best defined as
a. on time
b. sympathetic
c. able to get along
d. antagonistic |



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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.

Definitions

1. allocate (ə'l' ə kāt)

(v.) to set apart or designate for a special purpose; to distribute in their wills many people _____
a portion of their wealth to favorite charities or educational institutions.

SYNONYMS: assign, allot, apportion

2. ardent (ār' dənt)

(adj.) very enthusiastic, impassioned
The members of the winning team acknowledged the cheers of their _____ fans.

SYNONYMS: intense, zealous, fervent, avid
ANTONYMS: indifferent, stolid, phlegmatic, apathetic

3. assiduous (ə sij' ū əs)

(adj.) persistent, attentive, diligent
Workers who are conscientious in the performance of their duties are, by definition, _____.

SYNONYMS: industrious, unremitting, sedulous
ANTONYMS: lazy, lackadaisical, shiftless

4. brash (brəsh)

(adj.) prone to act in a hasty manner; impudent
Successful political candidates soon learn how to handle tough questions fired at them by _____ newspaper and TV reporters.

SYNONYMS: rash, impetuous, brazen, impertinent
ANTONYMS: prudent, wary, cautious, circumspect

5. capricious (kə prish' əs)

(adj.) subject to whims or passing fancies
Our constitutional system of checks and balances is designed to prevent the _____ use of power by any branch of the federal government.

SYNONYMS: impulsive, fickle, unpredictable, mercurial
ANTONYMS: constant, steady, steadfast, unwavering

6. chastise (chas tīz')

(v.) to inflict physical punishment as a means of correction; to scold severely

State and federal laws now forbid the use of corporal punishment to _____ prisoners.

SYNONYMS: discipline, censure
ANTONYMS: commend, reward



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. copious (kō' pē əs)

(adj.) abundant; plentiful; wordy, verbose
The _____ and detailed footnotes found in most scholarly books are designed to document the authors' sources.

SYNONYMS: ample, profuse, bountiful
ANTONYMS: inadequate, meager, scanty, concise

8. deviate (v, də' vē āt; n., adj., də' vē ət)

(v.) to turn aside; to stray from a norm; (n.) one who departs from a norm; (adj.) differing from a norm, heterodox, unconventional

Try not to _____ from the directions given in the owner's manual.

Those who disagreed with the Soviet form of government were often branded as _____ and imprisoned.

Under our system of justice, the mentally ill cannot be held responsible for their _____ behavior.

SYNONYMS: (v.) diverge, veer, swerve

ANTONYMS: (v.) conform to, abide by; (adj.) orthodox

9. emaciated (i mǎ' shē ā tid)

(adj., part.) unnaturally thin
People who suffer from serious eating disorders may soon become woefully _____.

SYNONYMS: gaunt, withered, shriveled

ANTONYMS: plump, fat, obese, corpulent

10. exult (eg zult')

(v.) to rejoice greatly
The campaign workers _____ in the unexpected victory of their candidate.

SYNONYMS: revel, glory

ANTONYMS: mope, sulk, regret, rue, lament

11. gnarled (nārd)

(adj.) knotted, twisted, lumpy
The _____ limbs of cypresses dominate many of the landscapes painted by the Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh.

SYNONYMS: knotty, misshapen, contorted

ANTONYMS: smooth, unblemished, straight

12. indemnity (in dem' nə tē)

(n.) a payment for damage or loss

A certain type of life insurance contract provides double _____ for the accidental death of the policyholder.

SYNONYMS: compensation, restitution, reparation



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

13. inking
(ɪŋk' lɪŋ)

(*n.*) a hint; a vague notion
I had absolutely no _____ of what to expect as I entered the room.
SYNONYMS: clue, intimation, suggestion

14. limp
(lɪm' pɪd)

(*adj.*) clear, transparent; readily understood
Snorklers flock to the _____ waters of the Caribbean to view schools of brightly colored fish.
SYNONYMS: lucid, intelligible
ANTONYMS: clouded, murky, opaque

15. omnipotent
(əm nɪp' ə tənt)

(*adj.*) almighty, having unlimited power or authority
Many of the heroes of ancient myths and legends appear to be all but _____.
SYNONYM: all-powerful
ANTONYMS: powerless, impotent, feeble, weak

16. palatable
(pə' tə bəl)

(*adj.*) agreeable to the taste or one's sensibilities; suitable for consumption
The addition of some seasonings will usually make even the blandest of dishes _____.
SYNONYMS: edible, appetizing, attractive
ANTONYMS: inedible, distasteful, disagreeable

17. poignant
(pɔɪn' yənt)

(*adj.*) deeply affecting, touching; keen or sharp in taste or smell
There is something truly _____ about the sight of falling leaves in autumn.
SYNONYMS: heartrending, bittersweet, melancholy
ANTONYMS: unaffecting, bland, vapid, insipid, funny

18. rancor
(raŋ' kər)

(*n.*) bitter resentment or ill-will
An unusual degree of _____ may creep into the tone of the political debate in an election year.
SYNONYMS: animosity, enmity, bitterness
ANTONYMS: goodwill, harmony, rapport, amity

19. sophomoric
(səf ə mɔr' ɪk)

(*adj.*) immature and overconfident; conceited
Adolescents aren't the only people whose behavior might at times be considered a bit _____.
SYNONYMS: pretentious, superficial, fatuous
ANTONYMS: mature, judicious, sage, knowledgeable

20. spontaneous
(spən tə' nə əs)

(*adj.*) arising naturally, not planned or engineered in advance
Actors try to make their performances seem as _____ as possible.
SYNONYMS: unpremeditated, unplanned, impromptu
ANTONYMS: premeditated, planned, contrived, rehearsed

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.

- The teacher decided to _____ a corner of the classroom for an exhibition of student science projects.
- Some of my friends are mentally rather mature for their age; others are of a decidedly _____ turn of mind.
- The Bible tells us that the Lord will _____ the wicked, but our student dean is trying very hard to help him out.
- Nothing can arouse _____ memories of long ago and far away like an old, well-loved song!
- General Grant accepted Lee's surrender with quiet dignity, refusing to _____ over the defeat of a worthy foe.
- If you wish to recover quickly, you must not _____ in the slightest from the doctor's instructions.
- Remembering my old friend as a robust 200-pounder, I was shocked to see how _____ he had become during his long illness.
- My travels have shown me that many exotic foods I once considered disgusting are really quite _____.
- If you were as _____ in studying foreign affairs as you are in memorizing batting averages, you would have known how to reply to her comments on the situation in the Middle East.
- Under the American system of separation of powers, no government official or agency can ever become _____.
- As the speaker's voice droned on endlessly in the hot, crowded room, I suddenly realized that I hadn't the slightest _____ of what he was saying.
- _____ is never so bitter as when it arises among people who were once close friends.
- There can be no _____ for the pain and suffering that your carelessness has caused me!
- When he told me that he was reading *Huckleberry Finn* for the ninth time, I realized that he was indeed a(n) _____ admirer of the novel.
- We were fascinated to see the consummate grace and skill with which the _____ hands of the old carpenter manipulated his tools.
- Friends and relatives can be counted on to give _____ amounts of advice on child rearing to the parents of a new baby.
- Wasn't it rather _____ of you to offer the soccer coach advice on your very first day as a candidate for the team?

Choosing the Right Word

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

- The lecturer explained that the UN is not (**palatable**, **omnipotent**) and that it can do only what the member states allow it to do.
- The tastes of the TV audience are so (**gnarled**, **capricious**) that no one can predict in advance which programs will be successful.
- What she lacks in skill, she makes up for in (**assiduous**, **spontaneous**) attention to every last detail and requirement of the job.
- George Gershwin's early songs gave only a dim (**inkling**, **deviation**) of the genius that was to express itself in *Porgy and Bess*.
- Your (**ardent**, **brash**) interest in ecology shows that you care deeply about the welfare of this planet.
- The entire student body (**exulted**, **allocated**) when our team finally won the citywide basketball championship after years of losing to our bitter rivals.
- Tennyson speaks of "sorrow's crown of sorrow," by which he means the (**copious**, **poignant**) experience of remembering happier times.
- In the concentration camps, the liberating troops found thousands of victims horribly (**ardent**, **emaciated**) as the result of starvation diets.
- Perhaps you have been treated unfairly, but what good will it do to allow your sense of (**indemnity**, **rancor**) to control your mood and behavior?
- Our meeting last week was marred by a heated debate over how to (**allocate**, **chastise**) the funds in this year's budget.
- Far from being effortless, her simple, (**limpid**, **capricious**) writing style is the result of the most painstaking effort.
- He tries hard to sound well-informed, but his superficial answers only betray his (**poignant**, **sophomoric**) knowledge of world affairs.
- We must show understanding and acceptance of those who (**deviate**, **exult**) somewhat from our own standards of what is appropriate.
- She was (**assiduous**, **brash**) enough to tell her mother she was going to the dance in spite of the doctor's orders.
- During the depression of the 1930s, the entire nation seemed to take new strength from Roosevelt's (**poignant**, **copious**) energy and enthusiasm.
- He seems to feel that it is his mission in life to (**exult**, **chastise**) all those who fail to live up to his standards.
- Since their loud talk and crude manners were anything but (**palatable**, **limpid**) to me, I politely declined their invitation to dine with them.
- The destruction wrought by a nuclear war would be so vast that any form of (**inkling**, **indemnity**) to the injured would be impossible.
- I spent the better part of an hour trying to untangle my badly (**gnarled**, **assiduous**) telephone cord.
- Your simple, (**spontaneous**, **capricious**) expression of appreciation meant more to me than all the elaborate, carefully phrased tributes I received.

- How can you say that the audience's reaction was _____ when the director held up a sign reading "Applause"?
- Somewhere in a(n) _____ pool in the Canadian Rockies is the large trout that will someday grace the wall of my den.
- Far from being _____, the director's casting choices were based on a solid appreciation of each actor's abilities and limitations.

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.

- had no **clue** that a storm was approaching _____
- compensation** equal to our loss _____
- a **bittersweet** tale of love and loss _____
- apportioned** supplies to each member of the group _____
- rejoiced** in the news from the front _____
- misshapen** and weather-beaten fingers _____
- zealous** supporters of liberty _____
- the survivors' **gaunt** faces _____
- a **pretentious** literary style _____
- could find nothing **appetizing** on the menu _____
- asked **impertinent** questions _____
- ample** proof of the defendant's innocence _____
- a history of **animosity** between the two countries _____
- an **impromptu** celebration _____
- a **lucid** explanation of the issues _____

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.

- rewarded** for their behavior _____
- known to be a **lackadaisical** student _____
- abide by** the rules of the game _____
- steadfast** in one's affections _____
- ruled by **feeble** monarchs _____

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.

Vocabulary in Context

Light on the Land

Until the late 1820s, few American painters chose landscapes as a subject. Those who did paint landscapes did not **deviate** much from European models. In 1825, however, the course of American painting changed dramatically when a young English-born painter named Thomas Cole (1801-1848) took a trip to hike and sketch in the upper Hudson River Valley.

Cole was deeply affected by the natural beauty of the Catskill Mountains. The area was still wilderness, and Cole **exulted** in its unspoiled splendor. He immediately began sketching the **limpid** streams, majestic waterfalls, sunlit valleys, and rugged stone outcroppings that he saw there. Back in his studio in New York City, he produced paintings based on these sketches.

A group of younger painters eagerly followed in Cole's footsteps. The paintings of Cole and his followers exhibited an **ardent** idealization of nature. After Cole's death, John Frederick Kensett (1816-1872) became one of the leaders of the movement that Cole had started (now known as the Hudson River School).

These painters concentrated on light-filled landscapes. Artists working in other settings also showed the influence of the Hudson River School. For example, Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900) journeyed to Ecuador. There he captured on canvas the **capricious** moods of nature in the Andes and the tropical forests. Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902) stressed the awesome grandeur of the mountains and valleys of the American West in his paintings. By the 1870s, the Hudson River School had become the first truly national school of American landscape painting.



Autumn Afternoon on Lake George
by John Frederick Kensett

1. The meaning of **deviate** (line 2) is
a. imitate c. learn
b. diverge d. celebrate
2. **Exulted** (line 7) most nearly means
a. reveled c. dwelled
b. dabbled d. trekked
3. **Limpid** (line 8) is best defined as
a. muddy c. clear
b. bubbling d. peaceful
4. The meaning of **ardent** (line 19) is
a. innocent c. impetuous
b. active d. intense
5. **Capricious** (line 28) most nearly means
a. exotic c. mercurial
b. somber d. familiar

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in Units 7-9 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer questions 1-12 on page 106 on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in the introductory statement.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

According to one historian, "When California discovered gold, the world discovered California." The following passage is about the California gold rush.

- (Line) In 1848, a few nuggets of gold were discovered near a sawmill in the Sacramento Valley. News of this discovery set off a rush of gold seekers to the thinly populated California territory.
- (5) As the word of gold spread, **brash** individuals began arriving from all over the globe. Known as **forty-niners** because most of them arrived in 1849, these immigrants left homes, families, and jobs in hopes of staking a claim to a piece of California that would yield gold.
- (10) They came by ship, landing in the port of San Francisco, and by covered wagon across the Oregon and California trails. Few had any **inkling** of the difficulties they would face. Yet no amount of hardship seemed to dim their dreams. By the end of 1849, this **spontaneous** influx of people had increased California's population from about 15,000 to 100,000. The territory was admitted to the Union in 1850.
- (25) Such rapid growth brought **chaos** as well as prosperity to the new state. Once-small towns such as San Francisco and Sacramento suddenly grew large and wealthy by catering to the needs of the prospectors. It took a while for this
- (35) newfound wealth to be put to good civic use. Numerous camp towns also grew up overnight near the mines. These were generally **squalid**, lawless settlements that often disappeared as quickly as they appeared if the veins of gold went dry.
- (40) Although some forty-niners did strike it rich, the majority found themselves with small holdings that yielded a **parsimonious** living in return for very hard labor. Many would-be gold miners also ended up working for small wages in large mines owned by others. Still others had to turn to farming or ranching to support themselves. For many individuals, the California gold rush was a disappointment or a disaster. But for California itself, it was a boon, providing the fledgling state with new sources of wealth, transportation, and political influence.
- (55)

Enriching Your Vocabulary

Read the passage below. Then complete the exercise at the bottom of the page.

A Crop of Words

People everywhere—in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas—depend on farmers for food.

It is not surprising, therefore, that English is a language that is rich in words related to farming. Many of these words come from Middle and Old English. Over the centuries,

a number of farming words have taken on figurative as well as literal meanings. For example, *fallow* (Unit 3) refers to land that is not actively being farmed, but it can also be used to describe a mind that is inactive. A *crop* is the result of a harvest, but it is also a batch or collection of something, such as a crop of new students or a *crop* of movies based on computer games. The effort to achieve a goal, often an intellectual one, is sometimes likened to the progress of a crop from planting to harvest.

Many common expressions have their origins in farming. Someone who reverses the natural or proper order of doing something is said to *put the cart before the horse*. When you begin a task in earnest, you *put your hand to the plow*. Another expression using *plow* is a wish for success: *Speed the plow*.



Combine harvester at work

In Column A below are 8 crop words that have both literal and figurative meanings. With or without a dictionary, match each word with its meanings in Column B.

Column A

1. sow
2. reap
3. fodder
4. drought
5. winnow
6. grind
7. chaff
8. plow

Column B

- a. food for animals; material that is readily available
- b. to crush into powder; to oppress, weaken, or destroy
- c. to remove by a current of air; to get rid of something unwanted
- d. seed coverings and other debris separated from seed; something relatively worthless
- e. to plant seeds for growth; to put something in motion
- f. a prolonged period of dryness; a chronic shortage or lack
- g. to cut grain or gather a crop; to obtain or win
- h. to break up or turn over soil; to proceed steadily and with much effort



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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. acquiesce (ak wē es')

(v.) to accept without protest; to agree or submit

Management is not likely to _____
to union demands for raises because the company's profits have recently been on the decline.

SYNONYMS: comply with, accede, consent, yield
ANTONYMS: resist, protest

2. allure (a lūr')

(v.) to entice, tempt; to be attractive to; (n.) a strong attraction; the power to attract, charm

Dreams of stardom _____ many
gifted young performers from all over the country to the bright lights of Broadway.

The _____ of get-rich-quick schemes may lead people down the road to financial ruin.
SYNONYMS: (v.) beguile, tantalize; (n.) temptation, enticement
ANTONYMS: (v.) repel, turn off; (n.) repellent

3. askew (a skyū')

(adj., adv.) twisted to one side, crooked; disapprovingly
Some people cannot refrain from straightening lampshades that are a little _____.

All our plans for a picnic on the beach went suddenly _____ when it began to rain very heavily.

SYNONYMS: awry, lopsided, cockeyed
ANTONYMS: straight, symmetrical

4. blithe (blīth)

(adj.) cheerful, lighthearted; casual, unconcerned

It is difficult to deflate the _____
optimism of the young.

SYNONYMS: carefree, nonchalant, indifferent
ANTONYMS: glum, morose, despondent, depressed

5. contentious (kan ten' shəs)

(adj.) quarrelsome, inclined to argue

The members of the on-line discussion group were annoyed by the newcomer's _____ and rude remarks.

SYNONYMS: argumentative, disputatious, combative
ANTONYMS: agreeable, amiable, affable, pacific



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

6. covet
(kəv' ət)

(*v.*) to desire something belonging to another
Those who _____ the good fortune of others are likely to be unhappy with their own lot in life.
SYNONYMS: crave, yearn for, hunger for
ANTONYMS: disdain, scorn, despise

7. crestfallen
(krest' fō lən)

(*adj.*) discouraged, dejected, downcast
Despite the loss of an important labor endorsement, the candidate appeared in no way _____.
SYNONYMS: despondent, disconsolate
ANTONYMS: elated, cheerful, self-satisfied, cocky

8. disheveled
(di shev' əld)

(*adj.*) rumpled, mussed; hanging in disorder
Most people look a little bit _____ when they get up in the morning.
SYNONYMS: untidy, disarranged, tousled, unkempt
ANTONYMS: tidy, neat, orderly, well-groomed

9. exponent
(ek spō' nən)

(*n.*) one who advocates, speaks for, explains, or interprets;
(*math*) the power to which a number, symbol, or expression is to be raised
President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the first _____ of conservation.
In the equation $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$, the small raised 2s are all _____.

10. garrulous
(gar' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) given to much talking, tediously chatty
If you are conversing with a _____ individual, you may find it hard to get a word in edgewise.
SYNONYMS: talkative, loquacious, long-winded
ANTONYMS: reticent, murn, taciturn, laconic, reserved

11. insuperable
(in sū' pər ə bəl)

(*adj.*) incapable of being overcome
To the composer Ludwig van Beethoven, increasing deafness was not an _____ handicap.
SYNONYMS: invincible, insurmountable
ANTONYMS: surmountable, conquerable

12. lamentable
(lam' ən tə bəl)

(*adj.*) to be regretted or pitied
After a long, hard winter, city streets may be in a truly _____ state of disrepair.
SYNONYMS: deplorable, regrettable, distressing
ANTONYMS: praiseworthy, commendable, laudable



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

13. misnomer
(mis nō' mər)

(*n.*) an unsuitable or misleading name
The term *World Series* is a _____ because only North American teams participate in this annual event.
SYNONYMS: misnaming, malapropism

14. profess
(prə fes')

(*v.*) to affirm openly; to state belief in; to claim, pretend
My music teacher _____ herself satisfied with my technical progress so far this year.
SYNONYMS: assert, declare, proclaim, purport
ANTONYMS: disclaim, disavow, repudiate

15. respite
(res' pit)

(*n.*) a period of relief or rest
A vacation provides a _____ from the worries and responsibilities of everyday life.
SYNONYMS: interval, intermission, lull, breather

16. retribution
(re trə byū' shən)

(*n.*) a repayment; a deserved punishment
In most ancient societies _____ was swiftly visited on those who broke their promises.
SYNONYMS: recompense, requital, just deserts

17. sinuous
(sin' yū əs)

(*adj.*) winding, having many curves; lithe and flexible
The trunk of the tree was almost completely encased by _____ wisteria vines.
SYNONYMS: twisting, convoluted, serpentine, supple
ANTONYMS: direct, straight, unbending, stiff, rigid

18. sonorous
(sə nōr' əs)

(*adj.*) full, deep, or rich in sound; impressive in style
The _____ tolling of church bells announced the passing of the monarch.
SYNONYMS: resonant, resounding, grandiloquent
ANTONYMS: tinny, reedy, harsh, grating

19. vanguard
(van' gärd)

(*n.*) the foremost part of an army; the leading position in any field
If a high-tech company is to survive in today's marketplace, it must remain in the _____ of innovation.
SYNONYMS: forefront, cutting edge, trailblazers
ANTONYMS: rear guard, stragglers, laggards

20. wastrel
(wās' trəl)

(*n.*) a wasteful person, spendthrift; a good-for-nothing
Many a novel has told the sorry tale of a charming but self-destructive _____.
SYNONYMS: loafer, idler, squanderer, profligate
ANTONYMS: skintight, tightwad, miser

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.

- In spite of her rain-soaked clothing and _____ appearance, it seemed to me that she had never looked lovelier.
- I confess I suffered a twinge of envy when I learned that my rival had won the prize I had _____ so dearly.
- Retailers who seek to _____ unwary consumers with false claims should feel the full penalties of the law.
- The body of the slain hero was accompanied to its final resting place by the _____ strains of a funeral march.
- You certainly have a right to your opinions, but you have become so _____ that you immediately challenge opinions expressed by anyone else.
- Excessively _____ people usually don't have the imagination to realize that their endless chatter is boring everyone else.
- "The blinds are hanging _____ because the pull cord is all knotted and tangled," I said.
- With the publication of her famous book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson moved into the _____ of those seeking to protect our natural environment.
- Driving a car along those _____ mountain roads at a height of ten thousand feet calls for stronger nerves than I have.
- After all my high hopes, I was utterly _____ when the notice arrived that I had failed my driver's test.
- It isn't likely that the school administration will _____ to your recommendation to do away with all examinations and grades.
- I do not _____ to be heroic, but I hope I have the nerve to stand up for unpopular ideas that I believe are right.
- The _____ personality that had made her so charming and popular was unaffected by the passage of the years.
- For the innumerable crimes and cruelties he had committed, the tyrant had good reason to fear human, if not divine, _____.
- Now that the football season has ended, don't you think our school's athletes deserve a brief _____ before beginning basketball practice?
- After I heard my new parrot's harsh call, I decided that "Melody," the name I had planned for it, was something of a _____.
- A staunch believer in the equality of the sexes, Susan B. Anthony was one of the most effective _____ of women's rights.

- The pioneers succeeded in settling the West because they refused to admit that any obstacle, however formidable, was _____.

- We can all agree that the crime situation in this community is truly _____, but what are we going to do about it?

- He says that he is spending the family fortune "to promote the art of good living," but I consider him no more than a(n) _____.

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.**

- constitutes a bit of a **misleading name** _____
- just deserts** for a life of crime _____
- a welcome **relief** from pain _____
- the **cutting edge** of medical science _____
- proved to be something of a **spendthrift** _____
- the **resonant** quality of their voices _____
- despondent** at the news of their misfortune _____
- proclaimed** their allegiance to the new government _____
- a **long-winded** talk show host _____
- faced **insurmountable** odds _____
- failed to **comply with** the UN resolution _____
- realized something had gone **awry** _____
- a very **argumentative** meeting _____
- calculated to **tempt** big spenders _____
- a lifelong **champion** of higher education _____

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.**

- a **glum** outlook on life _____
- one who **scorns** worldly possessions _____
- a **straight** path through the forest _____
- the **tidy** state of the room _____
- the company's **praiseworthy** financial condition _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- The intently longing gaze that he fixed upon my plate told me that Rover (**professed**, **coveted**) my lunch.
- Since Ben was confident he could play varsity ball, he was extremely (**blithe**, **crestfallen**) when the coach cut him from the squad.
- After we had been playing our favorite CDs at top volume for several hours, Mother entered the room and begged for some (**respite**, **allure**).
- Although we really don't agree with Mother's musical taste, we decided to (**profess**, **acquiesce**) to her appeal.
- His willingness to experiment with interesting new ideas clearly put him in the (**vanguard**, **retribution**) of social reform in his time.
- The poet Shelley, entranced by the joyous song of the skylark, addressed the bird as "**(garrulous, blithe)** spirit."
- The wicked may seem to prosper, but I am convinced that sometime, somehow, in this life or the next, there will be (**exponents**, **retribution**).
- He is so (**contentious**, **sinuous**) that if someone says "Nice day," he'll start a full-scale debate on the weather.
- Wasteful use of energy at a time when there is a critical shortage of such resources is indeed (**lamentable**, **sonorous**).
- It would be a (**misnomer**, **respite**) to label as biography a book that is clearly a work of fiction, even though its main character is historical.
- Because it was the duty of town criers to deliver public proclamations, they were often chosen for their (**sonorous**, **contentious**) voices.
- With her lipstick smeared, her hair disarranged, and her hat (**askew**, **crestfallen**), she certainly was a strange sight.
- Anyone who spends hours, days, and weeks just hanging around is a (**wastrel**, **vanguard**) with the most precious thing we have—*time*.
- When we ended up in the lake, we realized that the skipper was not the expert boatman he (**acquiesced**, **professed**) to be.
- With hair styles what they are these days, many men now seem to look somewhat (**disheveled**, **garrulous**) when they come fresh from the barber.
- The (**vanguard**, **allure**) of "gold in them thar hills" brought many immigrants to California in 1849.
- Marshall McLuhan, a leading (**wastrel**, **exponent**) of TV's importance in modern life, coined the phrase "the medium is the message."
- Walking out on the empty stage and speaking the opening lines of the play seemed a(n) (**covetous**, **insuperable**) difficulty to the young actors.
- The taxi driver was so (**lamentable**, **garrulous**) during the long trip that it was a relief to return to my silent hotel room.
- As I watched the gymnastic meet on TV, nothing impressed me more than the incredibly graceful and (**askew**, **sinuous**) movements of the athletes.

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Kicking Up Her Heels

(Line)

American dancer, choreographer, and director Agnes de Mille (1905–1993) was born into a theatrical family. Her father was a playwright and a director, her uncle was Cecil B. DeMille, the director and producer of movie extravaganzas. As a youngster in California, Agnes was captivated by the **allure** of the dance and **professed** a desire to become a ballerina. However, her family did not encourage her ambition. Agnes herself was all too aware that she lacked the ideal ballerina's long, **sinuous** limbs and compact torso. **Crestfallen**, she gave up dancing and studied English, graduating with honors from the University of California in Los Angeles.

(15) When Agnes returned to New York in the late 1920s, she was drawn again to the dance. She began her career as a performer and then became a choreographer as well, creating and staging works for European and American ballet companies. These early dances were largely in the classical tradition of European ballet, but in 1942 de Mille broke new ground with **Rodeo**. This **blithe** look at courtship in the American West was a ballet, but it also included square dancing and tap dancing. Its success led Agnes de Mille directly to Broadway.

(20) In 1943, de Mille composed and staged the dances for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma*. The show was a triumph, and it put her in the **vanguard** of the American musical theater. *Oklahoma* was the first musical to make dance a part of the dramatic action. De Mille's choreography, which included ballet and modern dance forms, revolutionized the function of dance in the musical theater.



Agnes de Mille (center) working with dancers in rehearsal.

- The meaning of **allure** (line 4) is
a. rigor c. excitement
b. charm d. challenge
- Professed** (line 5) most nearly means
a. feigned c. renounced
b. denied d. declared
- Sinuous** (line 9) is best defined as
a. supple c. thin
b. strong d. sturdy
- The meaning of **Crestfallen** (line 10) is
a. Downcast c. Determined
b. Worried d. Enthusiastic
- Blithe** (line 24) most nearly means
a. authentic c. lighthearted
b. unusual d. solemn
- Vanguard** (line 29) is best defined as
a. tradition c. center
b. forefront d. ranks



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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. allude (ə lūd')

(v.) to refer to casually or indirectly

In his speech, the candidate _____
to his opponent's lack of military experience.

SYNONYMS: suggest, insinuate, hint at, intimate

2. clairvoyant (klār voī' ant)

(adj.) supernaturally perceptive; (n.) one who possesses extrasensory powers, seer

Few people are taken in by the _____
pronouncements of fortune-tellers and mediums.

The police sometimes use _____
to help them solve difficult missing-person cases.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) insightful, discerning, uncanny; (n.) visionary
ANTONYMS: (adj.) blind, unseeing, myopic, dense, imperceptive

3. conclusive (kan klūs' siv)

(adj.) serving to settle an issue; final

When they weighed all the evidence in the case, the
members of the jury found the testimony of the expert
witness to be _____.

SYNONYMS: decisive, indisputable, convincing, definitive
ANTONYMS: unsettled, provisional, indefinite

4. disreputable (dis rep' yə tə bəl)

(adj.) not respectable, not esteemed

Supermarket tabloids frequently publish stories about the
_____ behavior of celebrities.

SYNONYMS: disgraceful, discreditable, shady
ANTONYMS: honest, aboveboard, respectable, creditable

5. endemic (en dem' ik)

(adj.) native or confined to a particular region or people;
characteristic of or prevalent in a field

Scientists have yet to identify many plant and animal
species _____ to the rain forests.

SYNONYMS: indigenous, restricted to
ANTONYMS: alien, foreign, extraneous

6. exemplary (eg zem' ple rē)

(adj.) worthy of imitation, commendable; serving as a model

The Medal of Freedom is awarded to U.S. civilians for
_____ achievements in various
fields.

SYNONYMS: praiseworthy, meritorious, sterling, illustrative
ANTONYMS: infamous, notorious, scandalous, disreputable



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. fathom (fath' əm)

(v.) to understand, get to the bottom of; to determine the depth of; (n.) a measure of depth in water

It is sometimes difficult to _____ the
motives behind another person's actions.

The great passenger liner *Titanic* still lies buried several
thousand _____ beneath the
ocean's surface.

SYNONYMS: (v.) grasp, comprehend, figure out, plumb

8. guile (gi'l)

(n.) treacherous cunning, deceit

Folklore has it that a serpent's most outstanding trait is

_____, just as a fox's is craftiness.

SYNONYMS: trickery, duplicity, chicanery

ANTONYMS: candor, artlessness, naïveté, plain dealing

9. integrity (in teg' rə tē)

(n.) honesty, high moral standards; an unimpaired condition,
completeness, soundness

Scholars debated the _____ of the
text of a newly discovered poem attributed to Shakespeare.

SYNONYMS: rectitude, probity

ANTONYMS: dishonesty, corruption, turpitude

10. itinerary (ī tin' ə rer ē)

(n.) a route of travel; a record of travel; a guidebook

Tour companies regularly provide potential customers with
detailed _____ of the trips they offer.

SYNONYMS: schedule, program

11. misconstrue (mis kan strü')

(v.) to interpret wrongly, mistake the meaning of

Young children sometimes _____
their parents' motives.

SYNONYMS: misjudge, misinterpret

12. obnoxious (əb nāk' shəs)

(adj.) highly offensive, arousing strong dislike

The speeches Hitler delivered at the Nuremberg rallies were
full of racial slurs and other _____
language.

SYNONYMS: disagreeable, repugnant, hateful, odious
ANTONYMS: agreeable, pleasing, engaging, personable

13. placate (plā' kăt)

(v.) to appease, soothe, pacify

Sponsors of the controversial bill modified some of its
original provisions in order to _____
the opposition.

SYNONYMS: satisfy, mollify, allay, conciliate

ANTONYMS: vex, irk, provoke, exasperate, annoy



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. placid
(plas' id)

(adj.) calm, peaceful

There was no wind to disturb the _____ surface of the lake.

SYNONYMS: undisturbed, tranquil, quiet, serene
ANTONYMS: stormy, agitated, turbulent, tempestuous

15. plagiarism
(plā' jə riz əm)

(n.) passing off or using as one's own the writing (or other materials) of another person

Theft of an author's ideas is far more difficult to prove in court than word-for-word _____.

SYNONYMS: piracy, theft

16. potent
(pōt' ənt)

(adj.) powerful; highly effective

Music has been called the most _____ agent for inducing people to forget their differences and live in harmony.

SYNONYMS: mighty, formidable, forceful
ANTONYMS: weak, inept, feckless, powerless, ineffective

17. pretext
(prē' tekst)

(n.) a false reason, deceptive excuse

I sought some _____ for excusing myself from the weekly staff meeting I did not want to attend.

SYNONYMS: pretense, cover story, rationale, evasion

18. protrude
(prō trūd')

(v.) to stick out, thrust forth

Dentists commonly use various kinds of braces to correct the alignment of teeth that _____ or are crooked.

SYNONYMS: project, jut out, bulge

19. stark
(stārk)

(adj.) harsh, unrelieved, desolate; (adv.) utterly

Many a young idealist has found it difficult to accept the _____ realities of life.

By the end of his brief reign, the Roman emperor Caligula was clearly _____ raving mad.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) sheer, downright, grim, bleak; (adv.) absolutely
ANTONYMS: (adj.) bright, cheerful, embellished, ornate

20. superficial
(sū per fish' əl)

(adj.) on or near the surface; concerned with or understanding only what is on the surface, shallow

A _____ analysis of a complex problem is not likely to produce a viable or long-lasting solution.

SYNONYMS: skin-deep, insubstantial, cursory, slapdash
ANTONYMS: deep, profound, thorough, exhaustive

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 is quite useless to try to _____ dissatisfied customers who actually enjoy being angry and making complaints.
2. Phyllis was too polite to mention John's crude behavior at the party, but she certainly _____ to it when she spoke of "unnecessary unpleasantness."
3. His skillful use of flattery and double-talk to persuade us to agree to his scheme was a typical example of his _____.
4. Neither misfortunes nor happy events seem to have the slightest effect on my friend's _____ disposition.
5. America's most _____ weapon in the struggle for world influence is its great tradition of democracy and freedom.
6. Although the cut on my arm was bleeding quite heavily, it proved to be quite _____ and required only a tight bandage.
7. The tapes of the conversations were regarded as _____ proof that the official had been aware of the crime.
8. We spent many pleasant hours poring over all kinds of maps and guidebooks, planning the _____ for our trip across the United States.
9. Their idea of a(n) _____ student is someone so perfect in so many ways that he or she would be too good to exist.
10. Sherlock Holmes assured Dr. Watson that it was simple deduction, not some _____ faculty, that led him to the document's hiding place.
11. When we consider the _____ misery of the last years of his life, we must conclude that he paid in full for all his offenses.
12. The brilliant essay for which the writer received so much lavish praise has been exposed as a skillful act of _____.
13. I selected them as my business partners not only because I respect their ability but also because I have unlimited confidence in their character and _____.
14. Blue jeans, once _____ to the cowboys of the American West, are now a familiar part of the whole world's wardrobe.
15. By disregarding the flood of excuses, explanations, and justifications, we were able to _____ the true reasons for her actions.
16. Legally a defendant is innocent until proven guilty, so do not _____ a refusal to testify as an admission of guilt.
17. If you allow your foot to _____ into the aisle, someone may trip over it.

18. In 1722, Daniel Defoe published his famous account of the somewhat _____ history of Moll Flanders.
19. His conceit and his cold disregard of other people's feelings make him utterly _____!
20. On the _____ of delivering a package, the burglar sought to gain entrance to the house.

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. failed to **comprehend** the severity of the situation _____
2. deliberately **misinterpreted** my words _____
3. a hectic **schedule** with no time for relaxation _____
4. signs that **jut out** from the front of the building _____
5. wholesale **piracy** of another's work _____
6. **hinted at** the existence of embarrassing secrets _____
7. could find no plausible **excuse** to stay _____
8. never claimed to be **supernaturally perceptive** _____
9. an advantage gained by **trickery** _____
10. shellfish **indigenous** to the cape _____
11. **mollified** critics of the plan _____
12. a **bleak** and barren landscape _____
13. led a **tranquil** existence _____
14. **disagreeable** attempts to get attention _____
15. the **decisive** battle in the war _____

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. **scandalous** conduct _____
17. **weak** claims on our affections _____
18. a well-deserved reputation for **corruption** _____
19. a **respectable** way to earn a living _____
20. a **thorough** examination of the issues _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. In that neighborhood of small homes, a few massive apartment buildings (**allude**, **protrude**) like giants set down in a community of dwarfs.
2. Tom Sawyer used (**guile**, **pretext**) to get the other boys to do his work by convincing them that whitewashing a fence was fun.
3. The spectacular remains of that brilliant period stand in (**disreputable**, **stark**) contrast to the poverty of archaeological finds from previous eras.
4. Instead of (**alluding**, **fathoming**) so often to your own achievements and successes, why not wait for other people to mention them?
5. Although most of us cannot hope to match Mother Teresa's pure idealism, we may regard her noble life as inspiring and (**exemplary**, **endemic**).
6. In times of crisis, the utmost care must be taken to prevent ordinary military maneuvers from being (**placated**, **misconstrued**) as hostile acts.
7. A candidate for the highest office in the land should be, above all, a person of unshakable (**guile**, **integrity**).
8. Is it any wonder that your parents are worried, knowing that you are associating with such a (**placid**, **disreputable**) group of people?
9. The prospect of extremely high starting salaries is a (**stark**, **potent**) argument for pursuing a career in computer science.
10. Do not be taken in by any (**superficial**, **conclusive**) resemblances between their half-baked ideas and the sensible program we proposed.
11. With some psychics it is difficult to tell where the (**clairvoyant**, **itinerary**) leaves off and the con artist begins.
12. Mother was as upset as any of us, but she managed to conceal her fears so that she looked positively (**obnoxious**, **placid**).
13. It was clear that the student's book review was so similar to a review in a newspaper that it constituted outright (**integrity**, **plagiarism**).
14. Marge produced a convenient headache as her (**pretext**, **itinerary**) for having to leave early.
15. I find no one more (**obnoxious**, **clairvoyant**) than a person who insists on talking instead of listening to the brilliant and important things I have to say.
16. If the British government had made a sincere effort to (**misconstrue**, **placate**) the colonists, would the American Revolution have occurred?
17. Modern scientists use all kinds of high-tech gadgetry to (**fathom**, **allude**) the depths of the ocean.
18. Why not include Mount Vernon in the (**plagiarism**, **itinerary**) of our spring vacation?
19. It is all very well for science fiction writers to speculate, but is there any (**exemplary**, **conclusive**) evidence that UFOs exist?
20. Some people maintain that intelligent life must exist elsewhere in the universe, but I firmly believe that it is (**endemic**, **potent**) to Earth.



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

Vocabulary in Context

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**.

A Man of Mystery

Scholars will probably never fully **fathom** the relationship between the troubled life of the nineteenth-century American writer Edgar Allan Poe and his poems, short stories, and literary criticism. Poe was born in Boston in 1809. After the death of his mother (Line 5) when he was only two, he was taken into the home of John Allan, a wealthy Virginia merchant. Unfortunately, Poe seemed unable to live up to his guardian's standards of **integrity**. While still a student, he accumulated gambling debts that Allan refused to pay. (10)



The Raven, 1959. Antonio Frasconi. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Poe began to publish poetry and short fiction in the 1820s and 1830s while also working as an editor at various literary magazines. Yet he was always in financial difficulty. He continually failed to **placate** John Allan, who eventually cut the young writer out of his will. (15)

Poe's literary output was highly original. His poems and stories range from expressions of longing for idealized beauty to grotesque tales of horror. His 1845 poem "The Raven" won him (20) fame. His story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"

(1841) is considered the first modern detective story. His tales of horror, such as "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Tell-Tale Heart," are regarded as classics. Poe's life, however, was less **exemplary** than his work. In 1836, he scandalized many by marrying his young cousin Virginia Clemm. He also had a reputation for being quarrelsome. He started an uproar, for example, when he accused the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of **plagiarism**. Personal tragedy dogged him. After Virginia died of tuberculosis in 1847, Poe spiraled downward into depression, ill health, and perhaps drunkenness. In 1849, Poe was found semiconscious in the street outside a tavern in Baltimore. He died four days later (30) of causes that have never been satisfactorily explained.

1. The meaning of **fathom** (line 1)

- a. admire c. describe
 - b. understand d. condemn
2. **Integrity** (line 8) most nearly means
- a. scholarship c. civility
 - b. etiquette d. rectitude
3. **Placate** (line 15) is best defined as
- a. appease c. impress
 - b. enrage d. defeat

4. The meaning of **exemplary** (line 24) is

- a. infamous c. sterling
 - b. celebrated d. intense
5. **Plagiarism** (line 27) most nearly means
- a. pride c. theft
 - b. sloppiness d. insanity

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. abjure

(ab jūr')

(v) to renounce, repudiate under oath; to avoid, shun
Toward the end of Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*, the magician Prospero _____ his powers over nature.

SYNONYMS: forswear, retract, recant, abstain from
ANTONYMS: affirm, avow, aver, profess

2. acrid

(ak' rid)

(adj.) harsh in taste or odor; sharp in manner or temper
The _____ stench of a fire lingers in the air long after the flames have been extinguished.

SYNONYMS: irritating, stinging, bitter, caustic
ANTONYMS: gentle, soothing, mild

3. august

(ô gâst')

(adj.) majestic, inspiring admiration and respect
The _____ visages of four of America's great presidents are carved on the face of Mount Rushmore.

SYNONYMS: stately, dignified, exalted, venerable
ANTONYMS: humble, base, mean, lowly, abject

4. callous

(ka' les)

(adj.) emotionally hardened, unfeeling
Protesters accused the mayor of _____ indifference to the plight of the homeless.

SYNONYMS: insensitive, unsympathetic, thick-skinned
ANTONYMS: sensitive, compassionate, tenderhearted

5. clandestine

(klan des' tan)

(adj.) secret, concealed; underhanded
During the early stages of the American Revolution, _____ colonial printing presses

churned out quantities of anti-British propaganda.
SYNONYMS: covert, furtive, surreptitious, stealthy
ANTONYMS: open, overt, undisguised, aboveboard

6. compunction

(kam pənj' shən)

(n.) remorse, regret

In some religious writings _____ is used as a synonym for *contrition* to express profound regret for one's sins.

SYNONYMS: scruple, qualm, misgiving, contrition
ANTONYMS: shamelessness, insouciance, nonchalance



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. conflagration
(kǎn fē grā' shan)

(*n.*) a large destructive fire

A large number of wooden structures quite literally added fuel to the _____ that swept through

San Francisco in 1906.

SYNONYMS: holocaust, wildfire

ANTONYMS: deluge, flood

8. elated
(ì lǎ' tid)

(*adj., part.*) in high spirits, jubilant; extremely pleased

_____ fans lined the city's streets to cheer the World Series champions.

SYNONYMS: overjoyed, ecstatic; tickled pink

ANTONYMS: depressed, crestfallen, despondent, blue

9. indelible
(in del' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) not able to be erased or removed; memorable

The brutal crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis left an _____ stain on the history of the twentieth century.

SYNONYMS: lasting, permanent, unforgettable

ANTONYMS: erasable, impermanent, ephemeral

10. indulgent
(in dal' jənt)

(*adj.*) yielding to the wishes or demands of others

A heightened sense of compassion has induced the federal government to adopt a more _____ policy toward illegal aliens.

SYNONYMS: lenient, permissive, tolerant, liberal

ANTONYMS: strict, severe, inflexible, hard-nosed

11. inveterate
(in vet' ə ət)

(*adj.*) firmly established, long-standing; habitual

It has been claimed that many writers and artists have an _____ hostility to criticism.

SYNONYMS: persisting, chronic, dyed-in-the-wool

ANTONYMS: sporadic, intermittent, occasional

12. irrelevant
(ì rel' ə vənt)

(*adj.*) not to the point, not applicable or pertinent

When you take notes, it's best to record only the main ideas and eliminate all _____ details.

SYNONYMS: inapplicable, immaterial, beside the point

ANTONYMS: pertinent, material, apropos, germane

13. nocturnal
(nǎk tər' nəl)

(*adj.*) of or occurring in the night; under cover of darkness

Most _____ creatures have keen eyesight and acute hearing.

SYNONYM: nighttime

ANTONYMS: daytime, diurnal



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. platitude
(plat' ə tūd)

(*n.*) a commonplace, stale, or trite remark

The sentiments expressed in most greeting cards seldom rise above the level of timeworn _____

SYNONYMS: cliché, truism, bromide

ANTONYMS: epigram, quip, witicism, bon mot

15. quell
(kwel)

(*v.*) to subdue, put down forcibly

The English poet John Dryden believed that music has the power either to arouse or to _____ strong emotions.

SYNONYMS: suppress, pacify, squelch, quash, crush

ANTONYMS: incite, provoke, arouse, foment, stir up

16. quiescent
(kwī es' ənt)

(*adj.*) inactive; at rest

Although some volcanoes are believed to be truly extinct, many are merely _____

SYNONYMS: still, inert, motionless, dormant, tranquil

ANTONYMS: active, thriving, lively, bustling, volatile

17. ruminate
(rū' mə nāt)

(*v.*) to meditate, think about at length; to chew the cud

In old age many people sadly _____ on mistakes made and opportunities missed.

SYNONYMS: ponder, reflect, mull over, muse

18. tacit
(tas' it)

(*adj.*) unspoken, silent; implied, inferred

The neighbors had a _____ understanding that they would help each other in an emergency.

SYNONYMS: unexpressed, unvoiced, understood, implicit

ANTONYMS: explicit, express, specific

19. tangible
(tan' ja bəl)

(*adj.*) capable of being touched; real, concrete

After months of intensive negotiation, diplomats reported that they had made _____

progress toward reaching a settlement of the bitter dispute.

SYNONYMS: perceptible, actual, evident, palpable

ANTONYMS: immaterial, imperceptible, insubstantial

20. trenchant
(tren' chənt)

(*adj.*) incisive; keen; forceful, effective; cutting, caustic; distinct, clear-cut

Scholars consider the _____

satires of Jonathan Swift to be the greatest works of their kind in the English language.

SYNONYMS: penetrating, cutting, telling, acute

ANTONYMS: dull, bland, insipid, vapid, imperceptive

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. Abraham Lincoln's plan for reconstruction simply had the former rebels _____ allegiance to the Confederacy and vow to support the Union.
2. Their behavior was so rude and offensive that I had no _____ about telling them to leave the house.
3. Some people are so completely wrapped up in their own concerns that they often seem to be _____ about the feelings of others.
4. I stretched out under the old maple tree in the backyard and began to _____ on the strange events of that remarkable day.
5. Although the disease had been _____ for several years, the doctors warned her that its symptoms could appear again at any time.
6. How can we possibly accept the testimony of someone who is known to be a(n) _____ liar?
7. Who wouldn't be _____ at winning a huge prize on a television quiz show?
8. In the presence of such a(n) _____ assemblage of religious leaders representing all the major faiths, I felt very humble.
9. The streets seemed safe and familiar during the day, but now we had to face unknown _____ dangers.
10. The years of close association with outstanding teachers had left a(n) _____ mark on the students' characters.
11. I have no patience with a(n) _____ parent who gives in to every whim and demand of an undisciplined child.
12. There was no _____ evidence of his sincerity, but somehow we were confident that he would do all he could to help us.
13. The documents showed that, years before, the companies had made a(n) _____ agreement to divide the market among them.
14. According to legend, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over an oil lamp and started the _____ that consumed four square miles of Chicago in 1871.
15. Your statement may be correct, but since it has no bearing on the point now under discussion, I must reject it as _____.
16. I tried to _____ my feeling of panic by assuring myself that there is simply no such thing as a ghost.
17. The audience seemed to be stirred by the speaker's remarks, but in my opinion they were no more than a series of _____.

18. Though we were angry with each other, we had a(n) _____ agreement to act politely in front of our parents.
19. The fumes released by the volcano were so _____ that they caused great discomfort among people in the nearby villages.
20. The debate was decided in our favor when Carole's _____ rebuttal tore the other side's arguments to pieces.

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. a **wildfire** that destroyed thousands of acres _____
2. **reflected** on the consequences of their actions _____
3. just one **brimide** after another _____
4. tried to **suppress** their fears _____
5. saw the actor's **memorable** performance _____
6. lacking any sense of **remorse** _____
7. **overjoyed** by the day's events _____
8. evidence ruled **immaterial** to the case _____
9. **palpable** signs of long neglect _____
10. willingly **recanted** their old beliefs _____
11. the lawyer's **incisive** summation to the jury _____
12. an extremely **caustic** denunciation _____
13. in the emperor's **stately** presence _____
14. the **secret** world of intelligence agents _____
15. when nature is at its most **dormant** _____

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. an **occasional** reader of mysteries _____
17. the city's **daytime** noises _____
18. a reputation for being **tenderhearted** _____
19. ignored the **explicit** warning _____
20. **inflexible** in matters of discipline _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- The judge has a reputation for being generally (**indulgent, trenchant**), but not when confronting an individual convicted of drunken driving.
- Because their misconduct was clearly deliberate, we have no feelings of (**compunction, platitude**) in sentencing them to ten days of detention.
- Millions of Americans were thrilled as they witnessed on TV the simple but (**august, quiescent**) ceremony of the presidential inauguration.
- We should seek not to (**quell, elate**) the idealism and enthusiasm of youth but, rather, to direct those impulses into useful channels.
- The major powers intervened to prevent the brushfire war from engulfing the entire region in a full-scale (**conflagration, compunction**).
- Since my parents offered no objections, I felt that I had their (**acrid, tacit**) consent to go ahead with my plans for a summer trip to California.
- The deep-seated resentment of the populace, which had long been (**quiescent, irrelevant**), suddenly blossomed into open rebellion.
- In these days of presidential primaries, candidates can no longer be chosen at (**clandestine, august**) meetings of a few powerful politicians.
- After listening to the senator's (**trenchant, tact**) analysis, I have a clearer idea of what is involved and where I should stand on the issue.
- We may criticize Americans for many things, but they are never (**elated, callous**) when appeals for help come from distressed people.
- As part of the settlement, the company must henceforth (**quell, abjure**) unsubstantiated claims for its product.
- Like so many (**clandestine, inveterate**) smokers, she has found that great self-discipline is needed to break the cigarette habit.
- An insightful writer usually has no need to rely on hollow generalities or threadbare (**ruminations, platitudes**).
- His invariably (**acrid, indulgent**) remarks on the state of the world soon earned him the nickname of "Old Sourpuss."
- Just before going to sleep, we set traps to discourage the (**indelible, nocturnal**) raids of the raccoons on our food supply.
- Though the anecdote was amusing, it was totally (**callous, irrelevant**) to the matter we were discussing at the moment.
- Your (**ruminations, compunctions**) on the meaning of life will be just a waste of time unless they lead to some plans for rational behavior.
- Although there was no (**tangible, inveterate**) reason for my alarm, I could not shake off the feeling that something terrible was about to happen.
- Alexander the Great's meteoric career of world conquest made an (**indelible, indulgent**) impression on the thought and institutions of antiquity.
- Taking third place in the hundred-meter dash in the intramural track meet left me satisfied but scarcely (**callous, elated**).

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Owl Wisdom

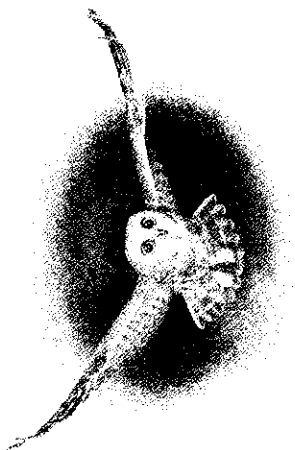
For most people, the sight of an owl, with its wings outstretched, swooping swiftly and silently down on its prey is an **indelible** experience. Equally impressive is the sight of an owl sitting virtually motionless on a tree limb with its large, fixed eyes wide open. It may be this wide-eyed look of exceptional awareness that inspired the **platitude** "the wise old owl." Contrary to appearances, however, owls are not exceptionally intelligent, certainly not when compared with highly trainable birds such as parrots and parakeets.

Owls are birds of prey, hunters that kill and eat mostly small mammals. Large owls hunt rabbits and squirrels, and smaller owls catch rodents, such as mice and shrews, or large insects. A few owls eat other birds, skim fish out of shallow water, or pick up and eat something that they did not kill themselves. For the most part, owls are **nocturnal** hunters, but a few species hunt by day and are **quiescent** by night.

It is not only the size of owls' eyes but also their ability, unusual among birds, to see objects with both eyes that make them such effective hunters in the dark. Keen hearing also enables some owls to catch small animals without seeing them. These owls can find their prey by tracking the sounds the animals make while moving on the forest floor or even under snow.

Night-hunting owls are difficult to locate and observe in the forest by day, as any birdwatcher will tell you. There may be few **tangible** signs that owls are present. Since owls wish to sleep in undisturbed safety, they choose a perch deep in the foliage or on a trunk or branch with coloring similar to their own rather dull-colored plumage. Daytime hunters, such as the short-eared owl, are easier to spot because they can be seen catching their prey in broad daylight in open country. One thing is certain, however: The person who is lucky enough to see an owl in the wild, whether during the day or at night, will feel **elated**.

Northern saw-whet owl hunting at night



(Line)

(5)

(10)

(15)

(20)

(25)

(30)

1. The meaning of **indelible** (line 2) is
- alarming
 - unusual
 - exciting
 - unforgettable

4. The meaning of **quiescent** (line 20) is
- blind
 - industrious
 - inactive
 - sociable

2. **Platitude** (line 6) most nearly means
- cliché
 - classification
 - phrase
 - nickname

5. **Tangible** (line 27) most nearly means
- insubstantial
 - identifiable
 - confusing
 - perceptible

3. **Nocturnal** (line 19) is best defined as
- occasional
 - nighttime
 - excellent
 - twilight

6. **Elated** (line 33) is best defined as
- privileged
 - jubilant
 - despondent
 - annoyed



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com

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. antipathy**
(an tip' ə thē)

(*n.*) a strong dislike, hostile feeling

Sensible people normally view any form of bigotry with the most profound _____.

SYNONYMS: hostility, enmity, aversion, bad blood

ANTONYMS: attraction, appeal, allure, sympathy

- 2. applicable**
(ap' la kə bəl)

(*adj.*) capable of being applied; relevant, suitable

The protection against being tried for the same crime twice is not _____ in some cases.

SYNONYMS: appropriate, fit, apt, apposite

ANTONYMS: inappropriate, unsuitable, irrelevant

- 3. asset**
(as' et)

(*n.*) something of value; a resource; an advantage

By law, an annual report must include a detailed breakdown of a company's _____ and liabilities.

SYNONYMS: property, possession, holding, endowment

ANTONYMS: drawback, handicap, liability

- 4. beset**
(bē set')

(*v.*) to attack from all sides; to surround, hem in; (*adj., part.*) harassed, troubled; studded (as with jewels)

Every federal administration must grapple with the economic woes that _____ the nation.

The crown worn by England's monarchs is a gorgeous object _____ with fabulous precious stones.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) assail, harass, badger, pester, torment

- 5. compassion**
(kəm pash' ən)

(*n.*) sympathy for another's suffering; pity

Without the _____ and generosity of donors and volunteers, many charitable organizations would have to shut their doors.

SYNONYMS: concern, commiseration, empathy

ANTONYMS: indifference, callousness, heartlessness

- 6. decorum**
(di kôr' əm)

(*n.*) proper behavior, good taste; orderliness

Legislative assemblies preserve _____ by operating under the rules of parliamentary procedure.

SYNONYMS: seemliness, good form, propriety

ANTONYMS: impropriety, bad form, bad taste



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com

- 7. duress**
(dû res')

(*n.*) compulsion by threat; forcible confinement

Political prisoners are sometimes subjected to a mild form of _____ called *house arrest*.

SYNONYMS: intimidation, coercion

ANTONYMS: persuasion, coaxing, sweet talk, cajolery

- 8. exuberant**
(eg zû' bər ənt)

(*adj.*) high-spirited, enthusiastic, unrestrained; excessive, abundant
Unable to control their _____ spirits, the fans of the popular singer cheered their idol loudly.

SYNONYMS: lively, ebullient, irrepressible, lavish

ANTONYMS: depressed, despondent, sulky, restrained

- 9. facsimile**
(fak sim' ə lē)

(*n.*) an exact copy
A _____ of the U.S. Constitution is displayed in many social studies classrooms.

SYNONYMS: replica, duplicate, reproduction, clone

ANTONYMS: variation, modification, permutation

- 10. imbibe**
(im bîb')

(*v.*) to drink; to take in, absorb

An inquisitive person can _____ knowledge from many sources.

SYNONYMS: swallow, gulp, quaff, assimilate, digest

ANTONYMS: eject, emit, expel, discharge

- 11. implacable**
(im plak' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) not to be satisfied or pacified; unyielding

The peoples of the Arctic have shown that nature need not be an _____ foe.

SYNONYMS: relentless, inexorable, unappeasable

ANTONYMS: lenient, indulgent, permissive, flexible

- 12. infinitesimal**
(in fin' ə tes' ə məl)

(*adj.*) so small as to be almost immeasurable; minute

To a fussy housekeeper, even an _____ amount of dust on a tabletop is unacceptable.

SYNONYMS: tiny, minuscule, microscopic, unnoticeable

ANTONYMS: vast, immense, huge, infinite

- 13. innocuous**
(i nāk' yū əs)

(*adj.*) harmless, inoffensive; insignificant

Conversation at a dinner party may sometimes be confined to pleasant and _____ generalities.

SYNONYMS: feeble, impotent, unobjectionable, insipid

ANTONYMS: harmful, dangerous, pernicious, toxic, virulent

- 14. militate**
(mil' ə tāt)

(*v.*) to have effect or force on or against someone or something, fight against

Health concerns _____ strongly against the habitual use of tobacco and alcohol.

SYNONYMS: counter, oppose, work against



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

15. patent
(pat' ant)

(*n.*) exclusive rights over an invention; copyright; (*v.*) to arrange or obtain such rights; (*adj.*) plain, open to view; copyrighted

When the _____ on a drug expires, any manufacturer may produce it.

By the time of his death in 1931, Thomas Alva Edison had _____ more inventions than any other American of his time.

During cross-examination a skilled lawyer may catch a key hostile witness in a _____ falsehood.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) exclusive license; (*adj.*) evident

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) concealed, hidden, secret, clandestine

16. prowess
(prau' əs)

(*n.*) distinguished bravery; superior skill or ability

The Greek hero Achilles won fame for his _____

_____ in the Trojan War.

SYNONYMS: valor, courage, heroism, mastery, proficiency

ANTONYMS: cowardice, incompetence, ineptitude

17. sedate
(sə diət')

(*adj.*) quiet, settled, sober; (*v.*) to administer a tranquilizer

At concerts of classical music, audiences generally behave in a _____ and attentive manner.

A doctor may decide to _____ a patient who has suffered a severe emotional shock or physical injury.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) unruffled, composed, cool and collected

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) loud, brash, flashy, flamboyant, garish, flighty

18. stentorian
(sten tór' ē ən)

(*adj.*) extremely loud

Some public speakers favor a _____ delivery and emphatic gestures to drive home their message to their listeners.

SYNONYMS: thundering, booming, deafening, ear-splitting

ANTONYMS: hushed, inaudible, whispered, mute

19. stipulate
(stip' yə iät)

(*v.*) to arrange specifically; to require as a condition of agreement

A financial institution may _____ that all its employees be fingerprinted.

SYNONYMS: specify, contract, provide for

20. ultimatum
(əl tə mǎ' təm)

(*n.*) a final proposal or statement of conditions

As a strike deadline draws near, both labor and management can be expected to issue _____

SYNONYM: final terms

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.

- Her refusal to discuss even the possibility of a compromise convinced me that I was faced with a(n) _____ opponent.
- I enjoy his jokes, but he ought to bear in mind that there are certain standards of _____ to be observed at graduation.
- American law prohibits police from arresting and holding suspects in any type of _____ without formally charging them.
- If only he could match his _____ on the playing field with a high level of excellence in the classroom!
- The player's chronic shoulder injury _____ against his plan to extend his baseball career for another season.
- How can you expect them to concern themselves with your problems when they are so _____ with troubles of their own?
- The "monster" that frightened you so much during the hike last week was just a(n) _____ water snake.
- Centuries-old ethnic _____ have more than once led to bloody conflict in the Balkans.
- We could hear the quarterback's _____ signals even above the roar of the crowd.
- Although the artist's latest work was acclaimed by the critics, it seemed to me to be no more than a(n) _____ of a cardboard cereal box.
- I am well on the road to becoming a millionaire because I have just been awarded the _____ for an automatic homework machine.
- How quickly their _____ holiday mood became quiet and sober when they had to return to work on Monday morning!
- If the contract is framed by a good lawyer, it will _____ exactly when, where, and how payment is to be made.
- The landlord's _____ was simple and direct: Pay the rent increase or get out.
- During the long summer afternoons, we used to sit on the shaded veranda, _____ iced drinks and talking about life.
- He has his shortcomings, but compared with his great services to his community and nation, they seem all but _____.
- I was amazed to see how a few years had transformed an unruly and mischievous child into a well-bred, _____ young adult.

Choosing the Right Word

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

- Mistaking the (**sedate, stentorian**) backfire of the truck for a sudden burst of gunfire, we ducked behind a parked car for safety.
- They were so (**exuberant, innocuous**) in their praise that I soon began to suspect either their judgment or their sincerity.
- Someone's most valuable (**prowess, asset**) may be the ability to analyze complex problems quickly and competently.
- What good does it do to include all those (**stipulations, facsimiles**) in the agreement if there are no provisions for enforcing them?
- It does little good to feel (**decorum, compassion**) for those less fortunate than ourselves if we are not willing to make sacrifices to help them.
- Although he was (**beset, imbibed**) by creditors, a tough employer, and medical problems, he never seemed to lose his zest for living.
- His (**prowess, duress**) as a speaker and debater quickly made him one of the leading figures in the Senate.
- My study of astronomy gave me a sense of the (**infinitesimal, exuberant**) importance of human beings and their tiny planet in a boundless universe.
- In this synthetic world of ours, I sometimes wonder if my life is genuine or just a(n) (**ultimatum, facsimile**) of the real thing.
- Some of the lessons that we learned during the Great Depression are (**implacable, applicable**) to our economic problems today.
- Her sense of (**compassion, decorum**) is so strict that she often makes other people feel stiff and uncomfortable.
- "Here's the (**ultimatum, antipathy**)," said Father. "Pass all your courses, or forget about attending the senior prom."
- The authorities suspected that the hostage's statement was made not voluntarily but under (**duress, patent**).
- The politician's poor showing in the polls and the failure of her fund-raising efforts (**militated, stipulated**) against her entering the presidential race.
- The tough leadership we need in this new century will not come from uncertain and (**applicable, innocuous**) personalities.
- The mistake in identification was so (**patent, infinitesimal**) that the suspect was released with the apologies of the arresting officer.
- Without actually understanding much of what the speaker was saying, the audience seemed to (**imbibe, beset**) her optimism and vigor.
- A person's modest and (**stentorian, sedate**) appearance may mask an iron determination and a sharp temper.
- You are in deep trouble if you combine a strong taste for high living with an equally strong (**antipathy, asset**) for hard work.
- As he watched his house go up in flames, he felt that he was the victim of an (**innocuous, implacable**) fate.

- The reference material you have given me is interesting, but most of it is not _____ to my term paper.
- Her chief _____ both in business and in social life are her keen intelligence and pleasant manner.
- Dr. Albert Schweitzer had not only great scientific ability but also a deep sense of _____ for suffering humanity.



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.

- surrounded by a screaming mob _____
- a reproduction of a famous painting _____
- the evident stupidity of the remark _____
- fight against adopting the policy _____
- assimilate the wisdom of a lifetime _____
- specifies the duties to be performed _____
- forced to sell all their possessions _____
- rejected the dictator's final terms _____
- made only minute progress toward a solution _____
- extorted evidence under compulsion _____
- rules established in the name of propriety _____
- argued the case with relentless logic _____
- a deep and long-standing enmity _____
- celebrated for her proficiency on the tennis court _____
- spoke in a booming voice _____



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.

- a closet full of flashy clothing _____
- judges noted for their heartlessness _____
- clear proof that the substance was harmful _____
- greeted the performers with restrained applause _____
- irrelevant to the present situation _____

Vocabulary in Context

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.

Far North

Conditions in the cold and barren lands of the Arctic would seem to **militate** against human settlement. Yet people settled in this region of North America long before the arrival of Europeans. These people, who prefer to be identified as **Inuit** rather than *Eskimo*, are of Asian origin. Most likely the Inuit began migrating from Siberia across the Bering Sea more than a thousand years ago.

The Inuit way of life depended on the sea and its **assets**. Because of their **prowess** as hunters, they could obtain the necessities of life with relative ease. Bowhead whales, seals, walrus, and fish provided meat, blubber, bone, and skin for food, oil, tools, and clothing. As the Inuit moved inland, they began hunting caribou, musk oxen, polar bears, and smaller mammals. The skins of these animals were made into clothes and rugs.

In summer the people lived in tents made from animal skins; in winter they built houses made of sod or snow. The Inuit were resourceful and self-reliant. They had little contact with the outside world and no need of it to sustain their way of life.

All this started to change, however, in the mid-1800s. More and more European whalers and traders began arriving in the north, offering the Inuit manufactured goods in exchange for the animals they hunted. The Inuit were increasingly **beset** by pressures from the outside. Over time they became more dependent on the cash economy and less able to lead their traditional way of life.

In Alaska today most Inuit live in wooden houses. They wear modern, mass-produced clothing and speak English in addition to their native tongue. The kayak and the dogsled have given way to the motorboat and the snowmobile. The nearly **implacable** forces of change have transformed the world of the Inuit. Although some Inuit still hunt and fish, most now participate in the modern economy.



Traditionally dressed Inuit family inside Igloo

1. The meaning of **militate** (line 1) is
a. argue c. work
b. vote d. trespass
2. **Assets** (line 6) most nearly means
a. resources c. challenges
b. drawbacks d. moods
3. **Prowess** (line 7) is best defined as
a. experience c. employment
b. problems d. mastery
4. The meaning of **beset** (line 24) is
a. amused c. distracted
b. assailed d. shocked
5. **Implacable** (line 30) most nearly means
a. toxic c. harmless
b. constant d. inexorable



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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.

Definitions

1. **alacrity**
(ə lak' rə tē)
(n.) a cheerful readiness; brisk and eager action
Neighbors responded with _____ to the woman's cries for help.
SYNONYMS: promptness, willingness, dispatch, celerity
ANTONYMS: reluctance, unwillingness, hesitancy
2. **alleviate**
(ə lē' vē āt)
(v) to relieve, make more bearable
The doctors and nurses did everything they could to _____ the patient's severe pain.
SYNONYMS: lessen, lighten, allay, mitigate, assuage
3. **antithesis**
(an tith' ə sis)
(n.) the direct opposite, a sharp contrast
Discriminatory practices may be said to constitute the very _____ of our nation's democratic ideals.
SYNONYMS: contrary, antipode
4. **appall**
(ə pōl')
- (v) to fill with dismay or horror
The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 _____ the nation and the world.
SYNONYMS: shock, stun, stupefy, horrify
ANTONYMS: please, cheer, gladden, elate, exhilarate
5. **bellicose**
(bel' i kōs)
(adj.) warlike in manner or temperament; quarrelsome
Teddy Roosevelt's foreign policy was often driven by a rather _____ brand of patriotism.
SYNONYMS: aggressive, combative, belligerent
ANTONYMS: amicable, peaceable, conciliatory, pacific
6. **disparage**
(dis pâr' ij)
(v.) to belittle, speak slightly of; to undervalue
Don't you think voters are getting awfully tired of listening to politicians _____ their opponents' voting records?
SYNONYMS: degrade, decry, run down, underrate
ANTONYMS: praise, extol, laud, plug
7. **dissonant**
(dis' ə nant)
(adj.) not in harmony; disagreeing, at odds
The clamor of _____ voices could be heard clearly through the closed doors of the meeting room.



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

8. droll
(drōl)

SYNONYMS: grating, strident, unmelodious, irreconcilable
ANTONYMS: harmonious, agreeing, euphonious

(adj.) amusingly odd

The hero or heroine of a popular sitcom may be surrounded by a cast of _____ eccentrics.

SYNONYMS: comical, humorous, whimsical, zany
ANTONYMS: humorless, solemn, dour

9. edict
(ē' dikt)

(n.) an order issued by someone in authority

Only in fairy tales can human unhappiness and misery be banished forever by royal _____

SYNONYMS: command, decree, proclamation

10. elucidate
(i lū' sē dāt)

(v.) to clarify, explain

The precise meaning of a passage in the Bible is sometimes hard to _____

SYNONYMS: interpret, expound, explicate
ANTONYMS: obscure, becloud, muddy, obfuscate

11. laud
(lōd)

(v.) to praise

At the assembly the principal _____ both students and teachers for the schoolwide improvement in reading scores.

SYNONYMS: hail, extol, glorify, exalt
ANTONYMS: criticize, censure, belittle, disparage

12. loil
(lāl)

(v.) to act in a lazy manner; to lounge; to recline, droop

There is nothing I would rather do on a hot, humid summer afternoon than _____ in a hammock under a tree.

SYNONYMS: loaf, loiter, sag, dangle

13. loquacious
(lō kwā' shəs)

(adj.) talkative, wordy; fond of talking

My dinner companion was so _____ that our conversation quickly turned into a monologue.

SYNONYMS: gossipy, voluble, garrulous, long-winded
ANTONYMS: silent, reticent, closemouthed, terse, taciturn

14. magnanimous
(mag nan' ə mäs)

(adj.) generous in forgiving, above small meanness

The general's victory was so decisive that he could afford to be _____ toward his former enemies.

SYNONYMS: unselfish, charitable, noble, bighearted
ANTONYMS: petty, selfish, unforgiving, spiteful



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

15. mandatory
(man' də tōr ē)

(adj.) required, obligatory

A union contract may stipulate that members are to receive a _____ annual cost-of-living increase.

SYNONYMS: compulsory, requisite, imperative
ANTONYMS: optional, voluntary, discretionary

16. nondescript
(nān də skript')

(adj.) ordinary, not outstanding; not easily classified

Fashion critics judged the designer's fall clothing line to be disappointingly _____

SYNONYMS: plain, unremarkable, unimpressive
ANTONYMS: distinctive, remarkable, vivid, prepossessing

17. phlegmatic
(fleg mat' ik)

(adj.) slow-moving, sluggish; unemotional

Sloths are such _____ creatures that they have earned the reputation of being the slowest animals on Earth.

SYNONYMS: lethargic, indolent, torpid, stolid, impassive
ANTONYMS: emotional, sensitive, thin-skinned, excitable

18. rescind
(ri sind')

(v.) to repeal, cancel

A sitting Congress sometimes _____ statutes passed by its predecessors.

SYNONYMS: withdraw, revoke, retract, annul, abrogate
ANTONYMS: affirm, endorse, uphold, ratify

19. vivacious
(va vā' shəs)

(adj.) lively, sprightly, full of energy

A _____ individual will certainly never lack for companions.

SYNONYMS: spirited, animated, ebullient
ANTONYMS: dull, spiritless, listless, indolent, languid

20. whet
(whet)

(v.) to sharpen, put an edge on; to make keen or eager

In most mystery novels, the first chapter is designed to _____ your curiosity to find out "who done it."

SYNONYMS: hone, excite, stimulate
ANTONYMS: dull, blunt, deaden, stifle, dampen

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.

- When the speaker tried to _____ the statement he had just made, I became more confused than ever.
- His enthusiastic and colorful description of the new series on public TV has _____ my desire to see it.
- In a time of fast-talking, slam-bang comedians, is there a place for his kind of quiet, _____ humor?
- I shall never forget your _____ offer to coach me, even though we were competing for the same role in the play.
- The principal finally _____ the unfair school regulation that prevented new students from trying out for the varsity teams.
- Is this _____ little house the "magnificent mansion" that you've been telling us about all these weeks?
- Their sarcastic remarks introduced a(n) _____ note into what had been a harmonious meeting.
- I would have preferred to enjoy the paintings quietly, without listening to the explanations of the _____ guide.
- His idle, pleasure-seeking way of life is the exact _____ of all that his hardworking parents had expected of him.
- I'm usually quite energetic, but there are times when I want to do nothing but _____ about and listen to my favorite CDs.
- Even the state troopers, who had been hardened by long experience, were _____ when they came on the scene of the automobile accident.
- Though her friends _____ her many achievements, her enemies ridiculed them.
- He may appear to be _____, but his friends are aware of the strong emotions simmering beneath his quiet exterior.
- At that dull, stodgy party, her _____ personality was like a breath of fresh air.
- Unlike you, I have never lived in France, but is that any reason for you to _____ my efforts to speak French?
- His disposition is so _____ that he is apt to turn a simple difference of opinion into a full-scale donnybrook.
- Instead of waiting for government help, let's do all we can right now to _____ the sufferings of the flood victims.

18. In spite of her inexperience as a programmer, she attacked her new job with _____ and made good progress.

19. You can make requests and suggestions if you wish, but please don't issue any _____.

20. Although in America voting is not _____, every qualified citizen has a duty to go to the polls in every election.

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.

- the **contrary** of what many people believe _____
- refused to obey the **command** _____
- agreed to the proposal with **dispatch** _____
- interpret** fine points of the law _____
- loves to **loaf** around the house _____
- a series of **strident** chords _____
- lighten** the tax burden _____
- known to have a **stolid** temperament _____
- revoke** the ban on parking in midtown _____
- a truly **unremarkable** personality _____
- artists **underrated** by their contemporaries _____
- joined the **lively** group of dancers _____
- tends to be rather **long-winded** _____
- extolled** the benefits of daily exercise _____
- a book filled with **whimsical** drawings _____

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.

- pleased** by the economic news _____
- dulls** the blade of an axe _____
- adopted a **conciliatory** attitude _____
- a party at which formal attire is **optional** _____
- a series of **spiteful** acts _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

- The cake was delicious, but the serving was so small that it did little more than (**elucidate**, **whet**) my appetite.
- I see no reason to (**laud**, **disparage**) him in such glowing terms for doing no more than his duty.
- Observers doubted that any coalition composed of such (**magnanimous**, **dissonant**) factions could long refrain from petty infighting.
- Reporters asked the mayor to (**elucidate**, **alleviate**) her ambiguous remarks about her plans to seek higher office.
- Would you rather (**rescind**, **loll**) in the back seat of a chauffeured limousine or drive your own convertible?
- Only an unusually (**phlegmatic**, **vivacious**) person could have remained calm in the face of such provocation.
- Churchill told the British to be resolute in war, defiant in defeat, and (**magnanimous**, **loquacious**) in victory.
- There must be a serious flaw in the character of those who have a constant need to (**laud**, **disparage**) others.
- Edna pretended to be indifferent about going to the dance, but I noticed that she accepted Harry's invitation with (**antithesis**, **alacrity**).
- In the fight against air pollution, many states have made filtering devices (**droll**, **mandatory**) for all cars sold within their borders.
- The only truly effective way to (**alleviate**, **appall**) the poverty of developing nations is to help increase their capacity to produce wealth.
- Her manner of speaking is so (**phlegmatic**, **vivacious**) that even her most commonplace remarks seem to suggest charm and excitement.
- Although Americans are not a (**bellicose**, **mandatory**) people, they have proven themselves prepared to defend their nation at any cost.
- The expression "What goes up must come down" might be termed an (**alacrity**, **edict**) of nature.
- It is sometimes said that women are more (**loquacious**, **bellicose**) than men, but all the men I know do their full share of talking.
- What (**appalled**, **loll**) us even more than the fearful living conditions was the fact that the refugees seemed to have lost all hope.
- His jokes were actually not too good, but his (**nondescript**, **droll**) manner of delivering them made a big hit with the audience.
- Because of the incidents that occurred during hazing week, the school may (**whet**, **rescind**) the rules that allow fraternity initiations.
- In the eyes of such leaders as Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., violence is the very (**edict**, **antithesis**) of a civilized society.
- The houses in that development are a mixture of (**dissonant**, **nondescript**) styles, with no particular architectural character or distinguishing features.

Vocabulary in Context

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.

A Force for Change

(Line)

In the field of social welfare, few Americans can rival the record of Jane Addams. Born of well-to-do Quaker parents in Cedarville, Illinois, Addams decided to pursue a career in medicine. However, she was forced to drop out of medical school because of ill health. This setback seemed only to **whet** her desire to **alleviate** human suffering. She was remarkably effective in achieving that goal.

- (5) Addams was **appalled** by the poverty and alienation of Chicago's large immigrant population in the 1880s. She responded with characteristic **alacrity**. In 1889 she and a friend, Ellen Gates Starr, established Hull House. This pioneering institution was a uniquely American version of the European settlement house, a kind of neighborhood center that offered a variety of services. At Hull House immigrants could get safe child care, take useful courses, and overcome their sense of isolation.
- (10)
- (15)

Addams strongly believed that the problem of poverty could not be solved by private generosity or personal kindness alone. She insisted instead that social workers be trained professionals and that government play an active role in improving social conditions. Among the legislative reforms she championed were the **mandatory** eight-hour limit to the workday for women, the first child-labor law, and the establishment of juvenile courts.

- (20)
- (25) A thinker and writer as well as an activist, Addams encouraged research into the causes of poverty and crime. She **elucidated** her theories and practical experience in a series of books. She was an ardent supporter of a woman's right to vote and was also a leading pacifist. In 1931 she became the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Jane Addams was truly instrumental in changing the lives of Americans.
- (30)



Jane Addams (1860–1935)

- The meaning of **whet** (line 4) is
a. sicken
b. modify
c. stimulate
d. depress
- Alleviate** (line 5) most nearly means
a. lessen
b. highlight
c. avoid
d. deepen
- Appalled** (line 6) is best defined as
a. frightened
b. angered
c. discouraged
d. shocked
- The meaning of **alacrity** (line 8) is
a. empathy
b. promptness
c. alarm
d. uncertainty
- Mandatory** (line 22) most nearly means
a. compulsory
b. crippling
c. liberal
d. voluntary
- Elucidated** (line 27) is best defined as
a. expounded
b. enlarged
c. popularized
d. disguised



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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.

Definitions

1. **abrasive**
(ə brə' sɪv)

(adj.) causing irritation, harsh; grinding or wearing down;
(n.) a substance used to smooth or polish

Within every family there are some relationships that tend to be _____.

Pumice, a natural _____, is a highly porous type of glass that is produced by volcanic eruptions.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) chafing, grating, rasping, erosive
ANTONYMS: (adj.) smooth, polished, satiny, oily, unctuous

2. **acclimate**
(ək' lə mət)

(v) to adapt to a new climate, environment, or situation
You may find it difficult to _____ to a new school if you arrive in the middle of the year.

SYNONYMS: accustom, learn the ropes

3. **chagrin**
(ʃə grɪn')

(n.) irritation or humiliation caused by disappointment or frustration; (v) to cause such a feeling

Much to my _____, I placed a mere fourth in the 100-meter freestyle.

The lukewarm reception accorded his first and only opera,

Fidelio, deeply _____ the composer Ludwig van Beethoven.

SYNONYMS: (n.) vexation, mortification; (v.) abash, mortify
ANTONYMS: (n.) jubilation, exultation, triumph; (v.) exult, delight

4. **complacent**
(kəm plə' sɛnt)

(adj.) self-satisfied; overly content

_____ individuals are, by definition, overly pleased with their lot in life.

SYNONYMS: smug, pleased with oneself
ANTONYMS: discontented, chagrined

5. **concur**
(kən kər')

(v) to express agreement, approve

It is indeed rare for eyewitness accounts of an accident to _____ in every detail.

SYNONYMS: agree, assent, ratify, sanction
ANTONYMS: disagree, differ, part company

6. **defamation**
(def ə mǎ' shən)

(n.) slander or libel

Celebrities sometimes find that they have no choice but to sue tabloids for _____.



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. **explicate**
(eks' plə kāt)

SYNONYMS: vilification, calumny, mudslinging
ANTONYMS: salute, tribute, testimonial, praise

(v.) to make plain or clear, explain; to interpret

The students listened attentively as the math teacher _____ the geometry theorem.

SYNONYMS: clarify, elucidate, untangle, spell out
ANTONYMS: confuse, bewilder, obscure, obfuscate

8. **fracas**
(frā' kəs)

(n.) a noisy quarrel or brawl

Do you think that the _____ on some talk shows are spontaneous or staged?

SYNONYMS: row, altercation, rhubarb, brouhaha

ANTONYMS: agreement, accord, unanimity, harmony

9. **grotesque**
(grō tesk')

(adj.) unnatural, distorted; bizarre

Gargoyles, the _____ beasts carved on many Gothic churches, are actually drainage spouts.

SYNONYMS: fantastic, outlandish, ugly, deformed

ANTONYMS: appealing, attractive, comely

10. **pandemonium**
(pan də mō' nē əm)

(n.) a wild uproar, din, or commotion

The whirl of activity on the floor of a stock exchange often looks and sounds like utter _____.

SYNONYMS: chaos, tumult, bedlam, three-ring circus

ANTONYMS: order, calm, tranquility, peace, repose

11. **raucous**
(rō' kəs)

(adj.) disagreeably harsh-sounding; disorderly

A _____ voice can be a liability for someone wishing to pursue a career in television journalism.

SYNONYMS: boisterous, clamorous, strident

ANTONYMS: placid, tranquil, peaceful, serene, pastoral

12. **receptive**
(ri sep' tiv)

(adj.) open and responsive to ideas or suggestions

People will generally be _____ to criticism of their work if it is given in a constructive manner.

SYNONYMS: open-minded, tolerant, amenable

ANTONYMS: narrow-minded, intolerant, hidebound

13. **renounce**
(ri naʊns')

(v.) to give up or resign something

Throughout history, martyrs have willingly given up their lives rather than _____ their faith.

SYNONYMS: repudiate, disown, abdicate, abjure

ANTONYMS: retain, secure, affirm, assent, aver



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

14. repress
(ri pres')

(v.) to hold back; to put down or check by force

As history has repeatedly proved, even the most brutal tyrants cannot forever _____ the human desire for freedom.

SYNONYMS: subdue, curb, stifle, constrain, bottle up
ANTONYMS: liberate, set loose, provoke, excite

15. reticent
(ret' ə sent)

(adj.) not inclined to speak; reserved; reluctant

She is understandably _____ about discussing her most deeply held beliefs with a group of total strangers.

SYNONYMS: taciturn, closemouthed, tight-lipped
ANTONYMS: talkative, garrulous, voluble, long-winded

16. savory
(sāv' ə rē)

(adj.) tasty, appetizing; pungent or salty, not sweet; inoffensive, respectable

Some of the characters a reader meets in a detective story are none too _____.

SYNONYMS: delectable, flavorful, aromatic, piquant
ANTONYMS: distasteful, unpalatable, malodorous, bland

17. somnolent
(sām' nə lənt)

(adj.) sleepy, drowsy; inducing sleep

By the end of an enormous Thanksgiving feast, most diners usually feel quite _____.

SYNONYMS: groggy, soporific
ANTONYMS: alert, lively, wide-awake, stimulating

18. vehement
(vē' ə mənt)

(adj.) intense, forceful, powerful

The defendant's _____ protestations of innocence failed to convince the jurors.

SYNONYMS: emphatic, fierce, vigorous, impassioned
ANTONYMS: apathetic, lukewarm, subdued, muted

19. voluble
(vāl' yə bəl)

(adj.) characterized by a ready flow of words; glib, fluent

Reporters never give much credence to tips that they receive from _____ but unreliable informants, however persistent.

SYNONYMS: loquacious, garrulous, long-winded, prolix
ANTONYMS: uncommunicative, reticent, taciturn, terse

20. zealous
(zel' əs)

(adj.) eager, earnest, devoted

Most members of my family are _____ supporters of our local high school's basketball, baseball, and football teams.

SYNONYMS: ardent, fervent, devout, dogged, gung ho
ANTONYMS: reluctant, unwilling, averse, tepid

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. You can well imagine my _____ at losing such an important election by so few votes.
2. She tried hard to remain awake, but the _____ atmosphere of the warm and cozy parlor was too much for her.
3. In an amazingly short time and with only the simplest ingredients, I had a(n) _____ stew simmering on the stove.
4. A free people cannot afford to grow _____ but must remain ever vigilant in safeguarding their liberties.
5. I was confident that after Dad had eaten a good meal, he would be more _____ to my request for the use of the car.
6. _____ shouts and boos from the stands will have no effect on a good umpire's decisions.
7. The conceited actor was anything but _____ in discussing his innumerable triumphs on the stage, screen, and TV.
8. We didn't expect such _____ dislike of country-and-western music from a native of Nashville.
9. He was just an average player when he first joined the team, but everyone admired his _____ efforts to improve his game.
10. For Halloween the children made _____ masks that they were sure would terrorize the neighbors.
11. The carpenter used a(n) _____ to remove the old finish from the top of the desk before revarnishing it.
12. The answers the candidate gave at the press conference were rambling and _____ but contained practically no hard information.
13. The library became a scene of _____ when a practical joker released a number of mice.
14. Both sons agreed to _____ their claims to their father's estate in favor of their widowed mother.
15. When we reached Mexico City, which is over 7000 feet above sea level, we found it difficult at first to _____ ourselves to the thinner air.
16. Although I am afraid of the dentist, I must _____ my fears and go for treatment.
17. An accountant tried to _____ the new tax legislation to me, but when she had finished, I felt I was even more in the dark than before.

Choosing the Right Word

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

- With deep (**pandemonium**, **chagrin**), I must confess that I was the one who neglected to hire the orchestra for the class dance.
- After a lot of persuading, our parents (**repressed**, **concurrent**) in our plan to make a bicycle tour of New England.
- I was startled not so much by your disapproval of my proposal as by the (**fracas**, **vehement**) with which you denounced it.
- Some people seem to relish every (**savory**, **somnolent**) morsel of gossip that comes their way.
- Some politicians are more (**zealous**, **voluble**) in promoting their own careers than in seeking to help the people who elected them.
- Why is it that some people are so talkative about most things but so (**complacent**, **reticent**) about their own personal background?
- We all have impulses to violence, but we must learn to (**repress**, **concur**) them if we are to live in a civilized society.
- The (**receptive**, **complacent**) expression on the antique doll's porcelain face seemed to proclaim "All's right with the world."
- It's not surprising that after so many years of military service, he has found it difficult to become (**acclimated**, **vehement**) to civilian life.
- A (**fracas**, **chagrin**) between rival groups on the floor of the convention was swiftly quelled by security guards.
- Mr. Sanderson is usually a man of very few words, but he was certainly (**abrasive**, **voluble**) when we asked him about his operation.
- Lacking a positive program of his own, he hoped to gain the support of the voters by (**explicating**, **defaming**) the other candidates.
- Gloria's kind words put me in such a (**receptive**, **savory**) frame of mind that I agreed to work on the committee before I knew what I was doing.
- He has a good deal of ability, but his (**zealous**, **abrasive**) personality has prevented him from getting ahead in the business world.
- In unforgettable words, the prophet Micah called on men to (**acclimate**, **renounce**) the use of armed force.
- After spending a month in the country, we found the sounds of rush-hour traffic in the big city more (**raucous**, **grotesque**) than ever.
- (**Pandemonium**, **Defamation**) erupted when the nervous theater manager announced to the waiting crowd that the rock concert was canceled.
- Will I ever again sleep as deeply as I did on those deliciously (**somnolent**, **raucous**) afternoons on that hot, quiet beach?
- The figures in the surrealist painting had the (**grotesque**, **reticent**) appearance of characters in a nightmare.
- For centuries scholars have argued over how to (**explicate**, **renounce**) certain cryptic passages in Shakespeare's plays and poems.

- Since hockey players often crash into each other at high speed, it's not surprising that occasionally a(n) _____ develops.
- The editorial on city government was so unfair and biased that it amounted to _____ of all the elected officials of this community.
- I have great respect for your knowledge of our government, but I really cannot _____ with your opinion about the role of the judiciary.



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.

- accustom** ourselves to our new surroundings _____
- mortification** over their crushing defeat _____
- a campaign of **vilification** _____
- tried to break up the **row** _____
- willingly **abjured** worldly things _____
- twisted into **bizarre** shapes _____
- led to **tumult** on the Senate floor _____
- a choice of sweet or **salty** snacks _____
- a **fierce** debate on a controversial issue _____
- tends to **stifle** strong emotions _____
- a group of **ardent** patriots _____
- reserved** in social situations _____
- the siren's **strident** wail _____
- need to **clarify** some of the technical language _____
- not very **tolerant** of a sudden change of plans _____



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.

- taciturn** traveling companions _____
- a **stimulating** environment _____
- an extremely **unctuous** manner _____
- differed** with everything I said _____
- aimed at **discontented** voters _____

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.

Vocabulary in Context

Down Times

On Tuesday, October 29, 1929, **pandemonium** broke out on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock prices had dropped sharply on the previous Thursday. Panicked shareholders suddenly sold off more than 16 million shares of stock, setting off the longest and most severe economic downturn in the history of the United States.

Since that fateful day, economists have attempted to **explicate** the causes of the 1929 collapse and the years of depression that followed it. They have pointed out that although many Americans enjoyed a period of unprecedented prosperity in the 1920s, some groups were left out of the general good fortune. President Herbert Hoover did nothing about these inequities. He remained **complacent**, believing that business was best left alone to correct its own problems.

However, conditions did not improve spontaneously. In fact, things got steadily worse in 1930, 1931, and 1932. The collapse of stock prices was just the beginning. Personal bankruptcies, business and bank failures, mortgage foreclosures, and widespread unemployment followed. Hunger and homelessness overtook millions. Across America, the dispossessed huddled together in **grotesque** makeshift huts and gutted automobiles. These shantytowns were called *Hoovervilles*, a name that reflected public anger over the president's failure to find solutions to the nation's woes.

By November 1932, most Americans **concurred** that Hoover had not done enough to halt the economy's decline. They elected a new president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He immediately called Congress into special session and pushed through a groundbreaking program of economic relief and recovery known as the *New Deal*. This program did much to restore the country to economic health.



On October 25 newspapers reported the start of the panic on Wall Street.

1. The meaning of **pandemonium** (line 1) is
 - a. disease
 - b. rioting
 - c. chaos
 - d. revolution
2. **Explicate** (line 8) most nearly means
 - a. eliminate
 - b. debate
 - c. disguise
 - d. explain
3. **Complacent** (line 15) is best defined as
 - a. content
 - b. upset
 - c. embarrassed
 - d. confused
4. The meaning of **grotesque** (line 24) is
 - a. gigantic
 - b. ugly
 - c. picturesque
 - d. dirty
5. **Concurred** (line 27) most nearly means
 - a. doubted
 - b. determined
 - c. suspected
 - d. agreed

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in Units 13-15 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer questions 1-12 on page 172 on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in the introductory statement.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

The subject of the following passage is Isaac Asimov, a popular and prolific twentieth-century science fiction writer.

- (Line)
- Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) has been **lauded** in many quarters as a master of the science fiction genre, and several of his books reached the best-seller lists. Unlike some other writers in the field, however, Asimov always **renounced** the view that science fiction should be pure fantasy. Instead, he championed what is sometimes called **hard** science fiction—that is, science fiction that has a purpose beyond simple entertainment or escapism.
- (5)
- Asimov, who was also a scientist and an academic, was a **zealous** believer in the usefulness of science to humanity and of the rational approach to solving human problems. He expressed **chagrin** that humanity often seems unable and unwilling to learn the lessons that science and history have to teach. These beliefs are reflected in his science fiction. He wanted to make readers think about where society may be heading if present trends continue.
- (10)
- Millions of readers are **receptive** to Asimov's ideas because of the context in which he presented them. Much of the appeal of his stories lies in the inventiveness of the imaginary worlds he created. His extremely popular Foundation
- (15)
- stories were written one at a time for the magazine *Asiouding Science Fiction* in the 1940s; and in the early 1950s, they were collected and published in book form. These stories are among the finest examples of what has become a familiar science fiction motif: the rise and fall of a galactic empire. Asimov called his galactic empire **Trantor**. Though it was not a **facsimile** of any actual empire, its vast size and centralized administration call to mind imperial Rome. This is not surprising, since Asimov read Edward Gibbon's classic history of the Roman Empire twice before the age of twenty.
- (20)
- Another outstanding element of Asimov's science fiction was the development of the robot as a concept and a character. Though he did not invent the idea, Asimov imaginatively extended the concept of robotics in his 1950 collection *I, Robot*. His premises came to be accepted by other science fiction writers and even by researchers into artificial intelligence.
- (25)
- (30)