

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. abdicate** (ab' də kät)
(v.) to resign, formally give up an office or a duty; to disown, discard
Of all England's monarchs, Edward VIII was the only one to _____ the throne voluntarily.
SYNONYMS: step down, relinquish, renounce
ANTONYM: retain
- 2. bestow** (bi stō')
(v.) to give as a gift; to provide with lodgings
The nation will _____ its highest civilian honor on the noted educator.
SYNONYMS: grant, confer, lodge, put up
ANTONYMS: receive, take, take back, take away
- 3. capacious** (kə pā' shəs)
(adj.) able to hold much, roomy
Whenever I go beach-combing, I take along a backpack with _____ compartments and pockets.
SYNONYMS: spacious, commodious
ANTONYMS: cramped, confined, restricted, narrow
- 4. caustic** (kō' stik)
(adj.) able to burn or eat away by chemical action; biting, sarcastic
All _____ household liquids, such as drain cleaners, must be kept out of the reach of children.
SYNONYMS: burning, corrosive, sharp
ANTONYMS: bland, mild, sugary, saccharine
- 5. crusade** (krū sād')
(n.) a strong movement to advance a cause or idea; (v.) to campaign, work vigorously
Rachel Carson's landmark book *Silent Spring* sparked the _____ to ban the use of DDT.
The people who _____ for civil rights in America during the 1960s came from all walks of life.
SYNONYMS: (n.) campaign, organized movement
- 6. deface** (di fās')
(v.) to injure or destroy the surface or appearance of; to damage the value, influence, or effect of; to face down, outshine
In many towns, those who _____ walls with graffiti must pay a fine and clean up the mess.
SYNONYMS: mar, disfigure
ANTONYMS: repair, restore, renovate, recondition

- 7. embargo** (em bär' gō)
(n.) an order forbidding the trade in or movement of commercial goods; any restraint or hindrance; (v.) to forbid to enter or leave port; to forbid trade with
The U.S. Congress may impose an _____ against a country that violates trade agreements.
In wartime, the president may _____ goods from countries that trade with the nation's enemies.
SYNONYMS: (n.) stoppage, ban, boycott
- 8. fallacy** (fal' ə sē)
(n.) a false notion or belief; an error in thinking
Reviewers cited several major _____ in the controversial author's newest book.
SYNONYM: misconception
ANTONYMS: sound reasoning, logic
- 9. levity** (lev' ə tē)
(n.) a lack of seriousness or earnestness, especially about things that should be treated with respect; buoyancy, lightness in weight
A bit of _____ may help you to cope with difficult people or situations.
SYNONYMS: giddiness, flippancy, frivolity, fickleness
ANTONYMS: seriousness, humorlessness, solemnity
- 10. mendicant** (men' də kənt)
(n.) beggar; (adj.) depending on begging for a living
People who have fallen on hard times may have no choice but to become _____.
_____ friars roamed the streets of medieval towns and cities, asking for coins.
SYNONYM: (n.) panhandler
ANTONYMS: (n.) millionaire, philanthropist
- 11. nauseate** (nō' zē āt)
(v.) to make sick to the stomach; to fill with disgust
The fumes that _____ everyone in the building were traced to a faulty heating system.
SYNONYMS: sicken, disgust
ANTONYMS: delight, tickle pink
- 12. negate** (nē gāt')
(v.) to nullify, deny, bring to nothing
One offensive remark may well _____ the goodwill a politician has built up among voters.
SYNONYMS: cancel, invalidate, annul
ANTONYMS: affirm, confirm, corroborate, buttress
- 13. pivotal** (piv' ə təl)
(adj.) vitally important, essential
The D day invasion was _____ to the Allies' eventual victory in Europe in World War II.
SYNONYMS: crucial, critical, decisive, seminal
ANTONYMS: unimportant, insignificant

- 14. recipient** (ri sēp' ə nt)
(n.) one who receives; (adj.) receiving; able or willing to receive
The first American _____ of the Nobel Prize for literature was the novelist Sinclair Lewis.
A long list of _____ charities may benefit from a wealthy individual's generosity.
SYNONYMS: (n.) receiver, beneficiary
ANTONYMS: (n.) donor, benefactor, contributor
- 15. ruse** (ruz)
(n.) an action designed to confuse or mislead, a trick
Thieves employ a variety of _____ to gain entrance to homes and apartments.
SYNONYMS: stratagem, subterfuge, dodge
- 16. teem** (tēm)
(v.) to become filled to overflowing; to be present in large quantities
Our national parks _____ with visitors during the summer months.
SYNONYMS: abound, swarm, overflow
ANTONYMS: lack, be wanting
- 17. tenet** (ten' ə t)
(n.) an opinion, belief, or principle held to be true
One of the primary _____ of medicine is to do no harm to the sick and injured.
SYNONYMS: doctrine, precept
- 18. tractable** (trak' tə bəl)
(adj.) easily managed, easy to deal with; easily wrought, malleable
A _____ colleague is preferable to one who is unwilling to cooperate or compromise.
SYNONYMS: submissive, docile, yielding, amenable
ANTONYMS: unruly, obstreperous, refractory
- 19. ungainly** (ən gān' lē)
(adj.) clumsy, awkward, unwieldy
The first time I tried to ice-skate, my movements were _____ and _____.
SYNONYM: graceless
ANTONYMS: nimble, agile, supple, graceful
- 20. voracious** (vō rā' shəs)
(adj.) having a huge appetite, greedy, ravenous; excessively eager
Newly hatched caterpillars are _____ eaters of leafy green plants.
SYNONYMS: gluttonous, insatiable, avid
ANTONYMS: indifferent, apathetic



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

