

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. **amplify**
(am' plə fi)
(v.) to make stronger, larger, greater, louder, or the like
Some court rulings _____ the authority of the individual states.
SYNONYMS: increase, augment, fill out, supplement
ANTONYMS: lessen, diminish, abbreviate, shorten
2. **armistice**
(är' mə stis)
(n.) a temporary peace, halt in fighting
Diplomats hope to negotiate an _____ between the warring nations.
SYNONYMS: cease-fire, truce
3. **arrogant**
(är' ə gənt)
(adj.) haughty, too convinced of one's own importance
An _____ individual is likely to find it difficult to work as part of a team.
SYNONYMS: high-handed, overbearing, presumptuous
ANTONYMS: meek, humble, modest, unassuming
4. **bland**
(bland)
(adj.) gentle, soothing, mild; lacking interest or taste
Some people prefer to live in a place where the climate is _____ and unchanging all year round.
SYNONYMS: dull, insipid
ANTONYMS: harsh, irritating, pungent, spicy, piquant
5. **disclaim**
(dis klām')
(v.) to deny interest in or connection with; to give up all claim to
Both candidates _____ any ties to special-interest groups.
SYNONYMS: disavow, disown, repudiate
ANTONYMS: admit, acknowledge, avow, confess
6. **epoch**
(ep' ə k)
(n.) a distinct period of time, era, age
The mapping of the human genetic code marked the beginning of a promising new _____ in medicine.
7. **estrangle**
(e strānj')
(v.) to drift apart or become unfriendly; to cause such a separation; to remove or keep at a distance
A long and bitter feud may _____ a family that was once close-knit.
SYNONYMS: part company, alienate
ANTONYMS: bring together, reunite, reconcile

8. **gratify**
(grat' ə fi)
(v.) to please, satisfy; to indulge or humor
Experts advise parents not to _____ a child's every whim.
SYNONYM: delight
ANTONYMS: disappoint, dissatisfy, frustrate, thwart
9. **Infinite**
(in' fə nit)
(adj.) exceedingly great, inexhaustible, without limit, endless; (n., preceded by the) an incalculable number, the concept of infinity; (cap. I) a name for God
It may take _____ patience to be a parent, but the rewards are equally great.
A belief in the _____ is a source of comfort and hope to many people who are in distress.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) unlimited, boundless
ANTONYMS: (adj.) limited, restricted, measurable
10. **irascible**
(ir əs' ə bəl)
(adj.) easily made angry, hot-tempered
Working for an _____ boss can be very difficult indeed.
SYNONYMS: irritable, quarrelsome, cantankerous
ANTONYM: even-tempered
11. **kindred**
(kin' drəd)
(n.) a person's relatives; a family relationship; (adj.) related by blood; like, similar
If you have any long-lost _____, you may be able to use the Internet to locate them.
People who feel that they are _____ spirits usually have many interests in common.
SYNONYMS: (n.) kin, relations
ANTONYMS: (adj.) unlike, dissimilar, contrasting
12. **naive**
(na' ev)
(adj.) innocent, unsophisticated, showing lack of worldly knowledge and experience
A _____ person may be easily taken in by get-rich-quick schemes.
SYNONYMS: green, wet behind the ears
ANTONYMS: sophisticated, knowing, urbane, suave, blasé
13. **niche**
(nich)
(n.) a decorative recess in a wall; a suitable place or position for person or thing
That _____ in the hallway is a perfect spot for a vase of fresh flowers.
SYNONYMS: nook, alcove
14. **obliterate**
(ə blit' ə rāt)
(v.) to blot out completely, destroy utterly
An earthquake can _____ large portions of a major city in a matter of minutes.
SYNONYMS: wipe out, erase, expunge, efface
ANTONYMS: foster, promote, create

15. **ramshackle**
(räm' shak ə l)
(adj.) appearing ready to collapse, loose and shaky
A few _____ buildings are all that remain of the old mining town.
SYNONYMS: rickety, unsteady, run-down, dilapidated
ANTONYMS: well built, well maintained, shipshape, trim
16. **ransack**
(ran' sak)
(v.) to search or examine thoroughly; to rob, plunder
Robbers _____ the house for cash and other valuables.
SYNONYMS: rummage, scour
ANTONYM: spot-check
17. **rote**
(rōt)
(n.) unthinking routine or repetition, a fixed or mechanical way of doing something; (adj.) based on a mechanical routine
Most people learn to type by _____ memorization can be helpful when you begin to study a foreign language.
18. **solvent**
(sɔl' vənt)
(adj.) able to meet one's financial obligations; having the power to dissolve other substances; (n.) a liquid used to dissolve other substances; something that solves, explains, eliminates, or softens
If you want to remain _____, set a budget and stick to it.
You will need to use a _____ to remove tar or paint from your hands.
SYNONYMS: financially sound, in the black
ANTONYMS: bankrupt, flat broke, in the red
19. **tedious**
(tē' dē əs)
Sometimes I find it hard to pay close attention to a _____ lecture.
SYNONYMS: boring, monotonous
ANTONYMS: stimulating, interesting, short and sweet
20. **venditor**
(ven' dər)
(n.) a person who sells something
If the appliance you purchased turns out to be defective, you should return it to the _____.
SYNONYMS: peddler, hawker, dealer, merchant
ANTONYMS: buyer, purchaser, customer